

N

C

BL

F

WHO

TA

TIE

Reprin

A
N A R R A T I V E
O F T H E
C A P T I V I T Y
A N D
S U F F E R I N G S
O F
BENJAMIN GILBERT

A N D H I S
F A M I L Y;
WHO WERE SURPRISED BY THE INDIANS, AND
TAKEN FROM THEIR FARMS, ON THE FRON-
TIERS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

IN THE SPRING, 1780.

PHILADELPHIA, PRINTED:

L O N D O N:

Reprinted and Sold by JAMES PHILLIPS, George-
Yard, Lombard-Street.

M. DCC. LXXXV.

Chulich - 1/10/63 - 75.00

Gagnon

943727

N

C

BL

BE

miles
year
the p

He

tivity

of re

of hi

marri

Bryan

bourk

move

Maho

A
N A R R A T I V E
O F T H E
C A P T I V I T Y
O F
BENJAMIN GILBERT
A N D H I S
F A M I L Y.

BENJAMIN GILBERT, son of Joseph Gilbert, was born at Byberry, about 15 miles from the city of Philadelphia, in the year 1711, and received his education among the people called Quakers.

He resided at or near the place of his nativity for several years; during which time of residence he married, and after the decease of his first wife, he accomplished a second marriage with Elizabeth Peart, widow of Bryan Peart, and continued in this neighbourhood until the year 1775, when he removed with his family to a farm, situate on Mahoning Creek, in Penn Township, North-

ampton county, being the frontiers of Pennsylvania, not far from where Fort Allen was erected. The improvements he carried on here were according to the usual manner of new settlements, convenience being principally attended to, his house and barn being of logs; to this he had added a saw-mill, and a commodious stone grist-mill, which, as it commanded the country for a considerable distance, conduced in some measure to render his situation comfortable.

This short account may not be improper, in order to interest our feelings in the relation of the many scenes of affliction the family were reduced to, when snatched from the pleasing enjoyment of the necessaries and conveniencies of life. The most flattering of our prospects are often marked with disappointment, expressively instructing us, that we are all strangers and sojourners here, as were our forefathers.

This family was alarmed on the 25th day of the 4th Month, 1780, about sun-rise, by a party of eleven Indians, whose appearance struck them with terror; to attempt an escape was death, and a portion of distress, not easy to be supported, the certain attendant on the most patient and submissive conduct. The Indians, who made this incursion, were of different tribes or nations, who had abandoned their country on the approach of General Sullivan's army, and fled within
command

com
prom
bou
of c
from
and
T
spee
1
2
who
Mo
3
4
5
6
othe
A
foll
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
Gilb
1
Joh

command of the British forts in Canada, promiscuously settling within their neighbourhood, and, according to Indian custom of carrying on war, frequently invading the frontier settlements, taking captive the weak and defenceless.

The names of these Indians, with their respective tribes, are as follow :

1. Rowland Monteur, 1st captain.
2. John Monteur, second in command, who was also stiled captain: these two were Mohawks, descended of a French woman.
3. Samuel Harris, a Cayuga Indian.
4. John Huston, and his son } Cayugas
5. John Huston, jun. }
6. John Fox, of the Delaware nation. The other 5 were Senecas.

At this place they made captives of the following persons :

1. Benjamin Gilbert, aged about 69 years
2. Elizabeth, his wife, 55
3. Joseph Gilbert, his son, 41
4. Jesse Gilbert, another son, 19
5. Sarah Gilbert, wife to Jesse, 19
6. Rebecca Gilbert, a daughter, 16
7. Abner Gilbert, a son, 14
8. Elizabeth Gilbert, a daughter, 12
9. Thomas Peart, son to Benjamin Gilbert's wife, } 23
10. Benjamin Gilbert, a son of John Gilbert, of Philadelphia, } 11

11. Andrew Harrigar, of German descent, hired by Benjamin Gilbert, } 26 years

12. Abigail Dodson, (daughter of Samuel Dodson, who lived on a farm near one mile distance from the mill) who came that morning with grist, } 14

They then proceeded to Benjamin Peart's dwelling, about half a mile further, and brought himself and family, viz.

13. Benjamin Peart, son to Benjamin Gilbert's wife, } 27

14. Elizabeth Peart, his wife, } 20

15. Their child, about nine months old.

The prisoners were bound with cords, which the Indians brought with them, and in this melancholy condition left under a guard for the space of half an hour; during which time, the rest of the captors employed themselves in plundering the house, and packing up such goods as they chose to carry off, until they had got together a sufficient loading for three horses, which they took, besides compelling the distressed prisoners to carry part of their plunder. When they had finished plundering, they began their retreat, two of their number being detached to fire the buildings, which they did without any exception of those belonging to the unhappy sufferers; thereby aggravating their distresses, as they could observe the flames,

flam
an a
They
dwe
until
hill,
short
ers fr
Th
place
far r
secur
large
upon
halte
fanda
of th
some
abate
leisur
remov
ers th
from t
going
Near
water,
crossed
steep
very g
ed cap
selves

flames, and the falling in of the roofs, from an adjoining eminence called Summer Hill. They cast a mournful look towards their dwellings, but were not permitted to stop; until they had reached the further side of the hill, where the party sat down to make a short repast; but grief prevented the prisoners from sharing with them.

The Indians speedily put forwards from this place; as they apprehended they were not so far removed from the settlements, as to be secure from pursuit. Not much further was a large hill, called Mochunk, which they fixed upon for a place of rendezvous: here they halted near an hour, and prepared shoes or sandals, which they call mockasons, for some of the children: considering themselves in some degree relieved from danger, their fears abated, so that they could enjoy their meal at leisure, which they ate very heartily. At their removal from this hill, they told the prisoners that Colonel Butler was no great distance from them, in the woods, and that they were going to him.

Near the foot of the hill flows a stream of water, called Mochunk Creek, which was crossed, and the second mountain passed; the steep and difficult ascent of which appeared very great to the much enfeebled and affrighted captives: they were permitted to rest themselves for some minutes, and then pressed on-

wards to the broad mountain, at the foot of which runs Nescacannah Creek.

Doubly distressed by a recollection of past happiness, and a dread of the miseries they had now to undergo, they began the ascent of this mountain with great anguish both of body and mind. Benjamin Gilbert's wife, dispirited with the increasing difficulties, did not expect she was able to pass this mountain on foot, but being threatened with death by the Indians if she did not perform it, with many a heavy step she at length succeeded. The broad mountain is said to be seven miles over in this place, and about ten miles distant from Benjamin Gilbert's settlement. Here they halted an hour, and then struck into the Neskapeck Path, the unevenness and ruggedness of which rendered it exceedingly toilsome, and obliged them to move forwards slowly. Quackac Creek runs across the Neskapeck Path, which leads over Pismire Hill. At this last place they stopped to refresh themselves, and then pursued their march along the same path, through Moravian Pine Swamp, to Mahoniah Mountain, where they lodged, being the first night of their captivity.

It may furnish information to some, to mention the method the Indians generally use to secure their prisoners: they cut down a sapling as large as a man's thigh, and there-

in

in cut notches, in which they fix their legs, and over this they place a pole, crossing the pole on each side with stakes drove in the ground, and in the crotches of the stakes they place other poles or riders, effectually confining the prisoners on their backs; besides which, they put a strap round their necks, which they fasten to a tree: in this manner the night passed. Their beds were hemlock branches strewed on the ground, and blankets for a covering, which was an indulgence scarcely to have been expected from savages: it may reasonably be expected, that in this melancholy situation, sleep was a stranger to their eye-lids.

Benjamin Peart having fair ted in the evening, occasioned by the sufferings he endured, was threatened to be tomahawked by Rowland Monteur.

26th. Early this morning they continued their route near the waters of Teropin Ponds. The Indians thought it most eligible to separate the prisoners in companies of two by two, each company under the command of a particular Indian, spreading them to a considerable distance, in order to render a pursuit as impracticable as possible. The old people, overcome with fatigue, could not make as much expedition as their severe task-masters thought proper, but failed in their journey, and were therefore threatened with death by the

the Indian under whose direction they were placed: thus circumstanced, they resigned themselves to their unhappy lot with as much fortitude as possible. Towards evening the parties again met and encamped, having killed a deer, they kindled a fire, each one roasting pieces of the flesh upon sharpened switches. The confinement of the captives was the same with the first night; but, as they were by this time more resigned to the event, they were not altogether deprived of sleep.

27th. After breakfast a council was held concerning the division of the prisoners, which being settled, they delivered each other those prisoners who fell within their several allotments, given them directions to attend to the particular Indians whose property they became. In this day's journey they passed near Fort Wyoming, on the eastern branch of Susquehanna, about forty miles from their late habitation. The Indians, naturally timid, were alarmed as they approached this garrison, and observed great caution, not suffering any noise, but stepped on the stones that lay in the path, lest any footsteps should lead to a discovery. Not far from thence is a considerable stream of water, emptying itself into Susquehanna, which they crossed with great difficulty, it being deep and rapid, and continued here this night. Benjamin Gilbert, being bound fast with cords, underwent great sufferings.

28th.

they were
resigned
with as
rds even-
ed, hav-
fire, each
on sharp-
the cap-
ht; but,
signed to
deprived

was held
rs, which
her those
al allot-
nd to the
they be-
fled near
ranch of
om their
ly timid,
garrison,
ring any
ay in the
a disco-
siderable
Susque-
fficulty,
ued here
g bound
erings.

28th.

28th. This morning the prisoners were all painted according to the custom among the Indians, some of them with red and black, some all red, and some with black only: those whom they smut with black, without any other colour, are not considered of any value, and are by this mark generally devoted to death: although this cruel purpose may not be executed immediately, they are seldom preserved to reach the Indian hamlets alive. In the evening they came to Susquehanna, having had a painful and wearisome journey through a very stony and hilly path. Here the Indians sought diligently for a private lodging place, that they might be as secure as possible from any scouting-parties of the white people. It is unnecessary to make further mention of their manner of lodging, as it still remained the same.

29th. They went in search of the horses which had strayed from them in the night, and after some time found them. They then kept the course of the river, walking along its side with difficulty. In the afternoon they came to a place where the Indians had directed four negroes to wait their return, having left them some corn for a subsistence: these negroes had escaped from confinement, and were on their way to Niagara, when first discovered by the Indians; being challenged by them, answered, "They were for the king;" upon which they immediately received them into protection.

30th.

30. The negroes, who were added to the company the day before, began cruelly to domineer and tyrannise over the prisoners, frequently whipping them for their sport, and treating them with more severity than even the Indians themselves; having had their hearts hardened by the meanness of their condition, and long subjection to slavery. In this day's journey they passed the remains of the Indian town, Wyaloosing. The lands round these ruins have a remarkable appearance of fertility. In the evening they made a lodgment by the side of a large creek.

5th Month 1st. After crossing a considerable hill, in the morning, they came to a place where two Indians lay dead. A party of Indians had taken some white people, whom they were carrying off prisoners, they rose upon the Indians in the night, killed four of them, and then effected their escape. The women were sent forwards, and the men prisoners commanded to draw near and view the two dead bodies, which remained (the other two being removed); they staid to observe them a considerable time, and were then ordered to a place where a tree was blown down. Death appeared to be their doom; but after remaining in a state of sad suspense for some time, they were ordered to dig a grave; to effect which, they cut a sapling with their tomahawks, and sharpened one end, with which

ed to the
ruefully to
prisoners,
port, and
han even
had their
their con-
very. In
remains of
the lands
e appear-
they made
reek.

consider-
ame to a
A party
e people,
ers, they
nt, killed
ir escape.
the men
and view
ined (the
to observe
e then or-
wn down.
but after
for some
grave; to
with their
nd, with
which

which wooden instrument one of them broke the ground, and the others cast the earth out with their hands, the negroes being permitted to beat them severely whilst they were thus employed. After interring the bodies, they went forwards to the rest, and overtook them as they were preparing for their lodging. They were not yet released from their sapling confinement.

2d. Having some of their provisions with them, they made an early meal, and travelled the whole day. They crossed the east branch of Susquehanna towards evening, in canoes, at the place where General Sullivan's army had passed it in their expedition. Their encampment was on the western side of this branch of the river; but two Indians, who did not cross it, sent for Benjamin Gilbert, jun. and Jesse Gilbert's wife; and as no probable cause could be assigned why it was so, the design was considered as a very dark one, and was a grievous affliction to the others.

3d. The morning however dispelled their fears, when they had the satisfaction of seeing them again, and understood they had not received any treatment harder than their usual fare. The horses swam the Susquehanna, by the side of the canoe. This day the Indians in their march found a scalp, and took it along with them, as also some old corn, of which they made a supper. They
fre-

frequently killed deer, and by that means supplied the company with meat, being almost the only provision they ate, as the flour they took with them was expended.

4th. The path they travelled this morning was but little trodden, which made it difficult for those, who were not acquainted with the woods, to keep in it. They crossed a creek, made up a large fire to warm themselves by, and then separated into two companies, the one taking the Westward Path, with whom were Thomas Peart, Joseph Gilbert, Benjamin Gilbert, jun. and Jesse Gilbert's wife Sarah; the others went more to the north, over rich level land. When evening came, inquiry was made concerning the four captives who were taken in the Westward Path, and they were told, that "These" were killed and scalped, and you may expect the same fate to night." * Andrew Harrigar was so terrified at the threat, that he resolved upon leaving them, and as soon as it was dark, took a kettle with pretence of bringing some water, and made his escape under favour of the night: he was sought after by the Indians as soon as they observed him to be missing.

* Andrew Harrigar endured many hardships in the woods, and at length returned to the settlements, and gave the first authentic intelligence of Benjamin Gilbert and his family to their friends.

5th.

5th.
their
pily
rema
sever
often
Capt
ment
and l
the m
his fo
this t
kicke
necks
his fu
them,
and g
large
one o
lated.
mit of
formin
very r
down
place,
wigwa
erly be
6th,
days in
which
van's a

5th. In the morning the Indians returned; their search for Andrew Harrigar being happily for him unsuccessful: the prisoners who remained, were therefore treated with great severity on account of his escape, and were often accused of being privy to his design. Captain Rowland Monteur carried his resentment so far, that he threw Jesse Gilbert down, and lifted his tomahawk to strike him, which the mother prevented, by putting her head on his forehead, beseeching him to spare her son: this so enraged him, that he turned round, kicked her over, and tied them both by their necks to a tree, where they remained until his fury was a little abated; he then loosed them, and not long after bid them pack up and go forwards. They passed through a large pine swamp, and about noon reached one of the Kittareen towns, which was desolated. Not far from this town, on the summit of a mountain, there issues a large spring, forming a very considerable fall, and runs very rapidly in an irregular winding stream down the mountain's sides. They left this place, and took up their lodging in a deserted wigwam covered with bark, which had formerly been part of a town of the Shipquagas.

6th, 7th, 8th. They continued these three days in the neighbourhood of these villages, which had been deserted upon General Sullivan's approach. Here they lived well, having,

ing, in addition to their usual bill of fare, plenty of turnips and potatoes, which had remained in the ground, unnoticed by the army. This place was the hunting ground of the Shipquagas; and whenever their industry prompted them to go out a hunting, they had no difficulty to procure as many deer as they desired.

Roast and boiled meat, with vegetables, afforded them plentiful meals; they also caught a wild turkey, and some fish, called suckers. Their manner of catching fish, was, to sharpen a stick, and watch along the rivers until a fish came near them, when they suddenly pierced him with the stick, and brought him out of the water.

Here were a number of colts, some of them were taken, and the prisoners ordered to manage them, which was not easily done.

9th. When they renewed their march, they placed the mother upon a horse that seemed dangerous to ride, but she was preserved from any injury. In this day's journey they came to Meadow Ground, where they staid the night, the men being confined as before related, and the negroes lay near them for a guard.

10th. A wet swamp, that was very troublesome, lay in their road; after which they had to pass a rugged mountain, where there was no path. The underbrush made it hard labour

for

for
wo
the
Ind
they
the
suffi
carr
met
an a
11
grou
tigu
Eliz
ed t
spir
she v
whos
gave
the t
those
have
we de
It
row,
the u
12
having
want
might
their

ill of fare,
which had
ced by the
ground of
eir industry
g, they had
leer as they

vegetables,
they also
fish, called
g fish, was,
g the rivers
n they sud-
nd brought

ne of them
ordered to
y done.

narch, they
hat seemed
erved from
they came
y staid the
e before re-
them for a

ery trouble-
ch they had
e there was
hard labour
for

for the women to travel; but no excuse would avail with their severe masters, and they were compelled to keep up with the Indians, however great the fatigue: when they had passed it, they tarried a while for the negroes who had lagged behind, having sufficient employ to attend to the colts that carried the plunder. When all the company met together, they agreed to rendezvous in an adjoining swamp.

11th. A long reach of savannas and low ground rendered this day's route very fatiguing and painful, especially to the women: Elizabeth Peart's husband not being allowed to relieve her by carrying the child, her spirits and strength were so exhausted that she was ready to faint; the Indian, under whose care she was, observing her distress, gave her a violent blow. When we compare the temper and customs of these people, with those of our own colour, how much cause have we to be thankful for the superiority we derive from the blessings of civilization.

It might truly be said, days of bitter sorrow, and wearisome nights, were appointed the unhappy captives.

12th. Their provisions began to grow scant, having passed the hunting grounds: the want of proper food to support them, which might render them more capable of enduring their daily fatigue, was a heavy trial, and was

was much increased by their confinement at night. Elizabeth Gilbert was reduced so low, that she travelled in great pain all this day, riding on horseback in the morning, but towards evening she was ordered to alight, and walk up a hill they had to ascend; the pain she suffered, together with want of food, so overcame her, that she was seized with a chill: the Indians administered some flour and water boiled, which afforded her some relief.

13th. Last night's medicine being repeated, they continued their march, and after a long walk, were so effectually worn down, that they halted. The pilot, John Huston, the elder, took Abner Gilbert with him, (as they could make more expedition than the rest) to procure a supply of provisions to relieve their necessity.

14th. The mother had suffered so much, that two of her children were obliged to lead her. Before noon they came to Canadosago; where they met with Benjamin Gilbert, jun. and Jesse Gilbert's wife Sarah, two of the four who had been separated from them ten days past, and taken along the Western Path: this meeting afforded them great satisfaction; the doubt and uncertainty of their lives being spared often distressing their affectionate relations.

John Huston, jun. the Indian, under whose care Benjamin Gilbert was placed, designing

to

to c
cees
of t
thei
all c
trav
ther
red
visio
with
rent
mon
even
of w
the c
befo
mon
the f
but
from
hedg
more
joyed
15
receiv
the p
lieved
his ca
they c
way,
ir.

ement at
duced so
n all this
morning,
dered to
ad to af-
ther with
at she was
ministered
afforded

ng repeat-
ed after a
orn down;
n Huston,
him, (as
than the
visions to

so much,
ed to lead
nadofago;
bert, jun:
wo of the
them ten
ern Path:
isfaction;
lives be-
fectionate
der whose
designing
to

to dispatch him, painted him black; this ex-
ceedingly terrified the family, but no intreaties
of theirs being likely to prevail, they resigned
their cause to him whose power can controul
all events. Wearied with their weakness and
travelling, they made a stop to recover
themselves, when the pilot returning, assu-
red them they should soon receive some pro-
visions. The negroes were reduced so low
with hunger, that their behaviour was diffe-
rent from what it had been, conducting with
more moderation. At their quarters in the
evening, two white men came to them, one
of which was a volunteer amongst the British,
the other had been taken a prisoner some time
before; these two men brought some hom-
mony, and sugar made from the sweet maple,
the sap being boiled to a consistency, and is
but a little inferior to the sugar imported
from the islands: of this provision, and an
hedge-hog which they found, they made a
more comfortable supper than they had en-
joyed for many days.

15th. In the morning the volunteer having
received information of the rough treatment
the prisoners met with from the negroes, re-
lieved them, by taking the four blacks under
his care. It was not without much difficulty
they crossed a large creek which was in their
way, being obliged to swim the horses over
it. Benjamin Gilbert began to fail; the
Indian,

Indian, whose property he was, highly irritated at his want of strength, put a rope about his neck, leading him along with it; fatigue at last so overcame him, that he fell on the ground, when the Indian pulled the rope so hard, that he almost choaked him: his wife seeing this, resolutely interceded for him, although the Indians bid her go forwards, as the others had gone on before them; this she refused to comply with, unless her husband might be permitted to accompany her; they replied, "That they were determined to kill the old man," having before this set him apart as a victim: but at length her intreaties prevailed, and their hearts were turned from their cruel purpose. Had not an over-ruling providence preserved him from their fury, he would inevitably have perished, as the Indians seldom shew mercy to those whom they devote to death, which, as has been before observed, was the case with Benjamin Gilbert, whom they had smeared with black paint from this motive. When their anger was a little moderated, they set forwards to overtake the rest of the company: their relations, who had been eye-witnesses of the former part of this scene of cruelty, and expected they would both have been murdered, rejoiced greatly at their return, considering their safety as a providential deliverance.

16
to
coun
sone
dig
toes,
They
even
soup
they
there
for y
light.

17
Gene
lake
ther
a dan
such
custo
their
procu
fore-n

18th.
pany,
had, a
a larg
to bo
perform
fresh m
eat for

ghly irri-
 at a rope
 with it ;
 hat he fell
 pulled the
 ked him :
 rceded for
 er go for-
 on before
 with, un-
 ed to ac-
 That they
 ld man,"
 as a vic-
 prevailed,
 heir cruel
 providence
 would in-
 ans seldom
 devote to
 observed,
 ert, whom
 from this
 little mo-
 ertake the
 ions, who
 er part of
 ected they
 , rejoiced
 their safety

16th.

16th. Necessity induced two of the Indians to set off on horseback, into the Seneca country, in search of provisions. The prisoners, in the mean time, were ordered to dig up a root, something resembling potatoes, which the Indians call whoppanics. They tarried at this place until towards the evening of the succeeding day, and made a soup of wild onions and turnip-tops; this they eat without bread or salt, it could not therefore afford sufficient sustenance, either for young or old; their food being so very light, their strength daily wasted.

17th. They left this place, and crossed the Genesee river, (which empties its waters into lake Ontario) on a raft of logs, bound together by hickory withes; this appeared to be a dangerous method of ferrying them over such a river, to those who had been unaccustomed to such conveyances. They fixed their station near the Genesee banks, and procured more of the wild potatoe roots before-mentioned for their supper.

18th. One of the Indians left the company, taking with him the finest horse they had, and in some hours after returned with a large piece of meat, ordering the captives to boil it; this command they cheerfully performed, anxiously watching the kettle, fresh meat being a rarity which they had not eat for a long time: the Indians, when it

was

was sufficiently boiled, distributed to each one a piece, eating sparingly themselves. The prisoners made their repast without bread or salt, and ate with a good relish, what they supposed to be fresh beef, but understood it was horse-flesh.

A shrill halloo, which they heard, gave the prisoners some uneasiness ; one of the Indians immediately rode to examine the cause, and found it was Capt. Rowland Monteur, and his brother John's wife, with some other Indians, who were seeking them with provision. The remainder of the company soon reached them, and they divided some bread, which they had brought, into small pieces, according to the number of the company.

Here is a large extent of rich farming land, remarkable for its levelness and beautiful meadows. The country is so flat, that there are no falls in the rivers, and the waters run slow and deep ; and whenever showers descend, they continue a long time muddied.

The captain and his company had brought with them cakes of hommony, and Indian corn ; of this they made a good meal. He appeared pleased to see the prisoners, having been absent from them several days, and ordered them all round to shake hands with him. From him they received information respecting Joseph Gilbert and Thomas Peart, who were separated from the others on the 4th

instant,

instant
settled

Th
One
them
the p
to hi

19
emph
it a
for s
first,
meal
their
capti
one t

20
ing c
for w
Their
mead
the di
and c
pursu
their
of the
Being
for a
struck
by wh
having

instant, that they had arrived at the Indian settlements, some time, in safety.

The company staid the night at this place. One of the Indians refused to suffer any of them to come near his fire, or converse with the prisoner, who in the distribution had fallen to him.

19th. Pounding hommony was this day's employment, the weather being warm made it a hard task; they boiled and prepared it for supper, the Indians setting down to eat first, and when they had concluded their meal, they wiped the spoon on the soal of their mockasons, and then gave it to the captives: hunger alone could prevail on any one to eat after such filth and nastiness.

20th. Elizabeth Gilbert, the mother, being obliged to ride alone, missed the path, for which the Indians repeatedly struck her. Their route still continued through rich meadow. After wandering for a time out of the direct path, they came to an Indian town, and obtained the necessary information to pursue their journey: the Indians ran out of their huts to see the prisoners, and to partake of the plunder, but no part of it suited them. Being directed to travel the path back again, for a short distance, they did so, and then struck into another, and went on until night, by which time they were very hungry, not having eat since morning; the kettle was

B

again

ed to each
hemselves.

st without
ood relish,
beef, but

d, gave the
the Indians
cause, and
nteur, and
e other In-
with provi-
npany soon
ome bread,
mall pieces,
ompany.

ch farming
and beauti-
o flat, that
d the waters
ver showers
e muddied.
ad brought
and Indian
meal. He
ers, having
ys, and or-
hands with
information
omas Peart,
s on the 4th
instant,

again set on the fire for hommony, this being their only food.

21st. The report of a morning-gun from Niagara, which they heard, contributed to raise their hopes, they rejoiced at being so near. An Indian was dispatched on horseback, to procure provisions from the fort.

Elizabeth Gilbert could not walk as fast as the rest, she was therefore sent forwards on foot, but was soon overtaken, and left behind, the rest being obliged by the Indians to go on without regarding her. She would have been greatly perplexed, when she came to a division-path, had not her husband lain a branch across the path which would have led her wrong: an affecting instance of both ingenuity and tenderness. She met several Indians, who passed by without speaking to her.

An Indian belonging to the company, who was on the horse Elizabeth Gilbert had rode, overtook her, and, as he went on slowly, conversing with her, endeavoured to alarm her, by saying, that she would be left behind, and perish in the woods; yet, notwithstanding this, his heart was so softened before he had gone any great distance from her, that he alighted from the horse and left him, that she might be able to reach the rest of the company. The more seriously she considered this, the more it appeared to her, to be a con-

convic
rectio
man,
course

22d
habita
halloo
an an
the co
it to p
dians,
their
York.

the ca
daugh
cas, b
was ra
genera
mother
by the
dian, a
taken
he was
ner, shi
they br
ply of
tance b
pany w
salutatio
telling
and tha

y, this be-
g-gun from
tributed to
at being so
on horse-
the fort.

alk as fast as
orwards on
nd left be-
the Indians
She would
n she came
usband lain
would have
ce of both
met several
peaking to

pany, who
t had rode,
lowly, con-
alarm her,
behind, and
ithstanding
ore he had
er, that he
him, that
rest of the
considered
er, to be a
con-

convincing instance of the over-ruling pro-
tection of him, who can " turn the heart of
man, as the husbandman turneth the water-
course in his field."

22d. As the Indians approached nearer their
habitations, they frequently repeated their
halloos, and after some time, they received
an answer in the same manner, which alarmed
the company much; but they soon discovered
it to proceed from a party of Whites and In-
dians, who were on some expedition, though
their pretence was, that they were for New-
York. Not long after parting with these,
the captain's wife came to them; she was
daughter to Siangorochti, king of the Sene-
cas, but her mother being a Cayuga, she
was ranked among that nation, the children
generally reckoning their descent from the
mother's side. This princess was attended
by the captain's brother, John, one other In-
dian, and a white prisoner, who had been
taken at Wyoming by Rowland Monteur;
she was dressed altogether in the Indian man-
ner, shining with gold lace and silver baubles:
they brought with them fr m the fort a sup-
ply of provision. The captain being at a dis-
tance behind, when his wife came, the com-
pany waited for him. After the customary
salutations, he addressed himself to his wife,
telling her that Rebecca was her daughter,
and that she must not be induced, by any

consideration, to part with her; whereupon she took a silver ring off her finger, and put it upon Rebecca, by which she was adopted as her daughter.

They feasted upon the provisions that were brought, for they had been for several days before pinched with hunger, what sustenance they could procure not being sufficient to support nature.

23d. Their spirits were in some degree revived, by the enjoyment of plenty, added to the pleasing hope of some favourable event procuring their releasement, as they were not far distant from Niagara.

The Indians proceeded on their journey, and continued whooping in the most frightful manner. In this day's route, they met another company of Indians, who compelled Benjamin Gilbert, the elder, to sit on the ground, and put several questions to him, to which he gave them the best answers he could; they then took his hat from him, and went off.

Going through a small town, near Niagara, an Indian woman came out of one of the huts, and struck each of the captives a blow. Not long after their departure from this place, Jesse, Rebecca, and their mother, were detained until the others had got out of their sight, when the mother was ordered to push on; and as she had to go by herself, she was much perplexed what course to take, as there

was

was r
in th
straig
space
overt
a sho
migh
rum
two
worth
who h
Jesse,
and p
as a t
althou
and b
Th
loads
carry,
expect
towns
their
but th
the dr
proach
than c
the c
tives
men,
bringi
them,

whereupon
er, and put
adopted as

ns that were
several days
t sustenance
cient to sup-

degree re-
y, added to
rable event
ey were not

ir journey,
ost frightful
ey met ano-
compelled

fit on the
to him, to
rs he could;
nd went off,

ear Niagara,
one of the
ives a blow.
n this place,

er, were de-
out of their
ered to push
elf, she was

ake, as there
was

was no path by which she could be directed: in this dilemma, she concluded to keep as straight forward as possible, and after some space of time, she had the satisfaction of overtaking the others. The pilot then made a short stay, that those who were behind might come up, and the captain handed some rum round, giving each a dram, except the two old folks, whom they did not consider worthy of this notice. Here the captain, who had the chief direction, painted Abner, Jesse, Rebecca, and Elizabeth Gilbert, jun. and presented each with a belt of wampum, as a token of their being received into favour, although they took from them all their hats and bonnets, except Rebecca's.

The prisoners were released from the heavy loads they had heretofore been compelled to carry, and was it not for the treatment they expected on their approaching the Indian towns, and the hardship of a separation, their situation would have been tolerable; but the horror of their minds, arising from the dreadful yells of the Indians, as they approached the hamlets, is easier conceived than described, for they were no strangers to the customary cruelty exercised upon captives on entering their towns: the Indians, men, women, and children, collect together, bringing clubs and stones, in order to beat them, which they usually do with great seve-

rity, by way of revenge for their relations who have been slain; this is performed immediately upon their entering the village where the warriors reside: this treatment cannot be avoided, and the blows, however cruel, must be borne without complaint, and the prisoners are sorely beaten, until their enemies are wearied with the cruel sport. Their sufferings were in this case very great, they received several wounds, and two of the women who were on horse-back, were much bruised by falling from their horses, which were frightened by the Indians. Elizabeth, the mother, took shelter by the side of one of them, but upon his observing that she met with some favour upon his account, he sent her away; she then received several violent blows, so that she was almost disabled. The blood trickled from their heads in a stream, their hair being cropt close, and the cloaths they had on, in rags, made their situation truly piteous: whilst they were inflicting this revenge upon the captives, the king came, and put a stop to any further cruelty, by telling them, "It was sufficient," which they immediately attended to.

Benjamin Gilbert, and Elizabeth his wife, Jesse Gilbert, and his wife, were ordered to Captain Rowland Monteur's house; the women belonging to it were kind to them, and gave them something to eat: Sarah Gilbert,

Jesse's

their relations
 formed im-
 the village
 s treatment
 vs, however
 nplaint, and
 until their
 cruel sport.
 very great,
 and two of
 back, were
 their horses,
 lians. Eli-
 by the side
 erving that
 is account,
 ved several
 almost dis-
 their heads
 close, and
 made their
 y were in-
 ptives, the
 any further
 sufficient,"
 to.
 h his wife,
 ordered to
 e; the wo-
 them, and
 ah Gilbert,
 Jesse's

Jesse's wife, was taken from them by three
 women, in order to be placed in the family
 she was to be adopted by.

Two officers from Niagara Fort, Captains
 Dace and Powel, came to see the prisoners,
 and prevent (as they were informed) any
 abuse that might be given them: Benjamin
 Gilbert informed these officers, that he was
 apprehensive they were in great danger of
 being murdered, upon which they promised
 him they would send a boat the next day, to
 bring them to Niagara.

24th. Notwithstanding the kind intention
 of the officers, they did not derive the ex-
 pected advantage from it, for the Indians in-
 sisted on their going to the fort on foot, al-
 though the bruises they had received the day
 before, from the many severe blows given
 them, rendered their journey on foot very
 distressing; but Captain Monteur obstinate-
 ly persisting, they dare not long remonstrate,
 or refuse.

When they left the Indian town, several
 issued from their huts after them, with sticks
 in their hands, yelling and screeching in a
 most dismal manner; but through the inter-
 position of four Indian women, who had
 come with the captives, to prevent any fur-
 ther abuse they might receive, they were
 preserved: one of them walking between
 Benjamin Gilbert and his wife, led them,

and desired Jesse to keep as near them as he could; the other three walked behind, and prevailed with the young Indians to desist. They had not pursued their route long, before they saw Captain John Powel, who came from his boat, and persuaded (though with some difficulty) the Indians to get into it, with the captives, which relieved them from the apprehensions of further danger. After reaching the fort, Captain Powel introduced them to Col. Guy Johnson, and Col. Butler, who asked the prisoners many questions, in the presence of the Indians. They presented the Captain with a belt of wampum, which is a constant practice among them, when they intend a ratification of the peace. Before their connexion with Europeans, these belts were made of shells, found on the coasts of New-England and Virginia, which were sawed out into beads of an oblong shape, about a quarter of an inch long, which when strung together on leathern strings, and these strings fastened with fine threads made of sinews, compose what is called, a belt of wampum: but since the whites have gained footing among them, they make use of the common glass beads for this purpose.

The Indians, according to their usual custom and ceremony, at three separate times, ordered the prisoners to shake hands with Col. Johnson.

2
wife
Col.
scen
quain
porte
Th
had
their
and
of th
grief.
26
their
these
quain
which
residen
the yo
a civil
27th
kindne
of the
prejud
trickle
The
housek
of thei
Benjam
invited
gave th

them as he
behind, and
to desist.
long, be-
powel, who
d (though
to get into
ved them
er danger.
Powel in-
, and Col.
any ques-
s. They
of wam-
ce among
on of the
ch Euro-
lls, found
Virginia,
f an ob-
nch long,
leathern
with fine
at is cal-
ne whites
ey make
this pur-
ual cus-
e times,
ds with
25th.

25th. Benjamin Gilbert, Elizabeth his wife, and Jesse Gilbert, were surrendered to Col. Johnson: this deliverance from such scenes of distress, as they had become acquainted with, gave them a more free opportunity of close reflection than heretofore.

The many sorrowful days and nights they had passed, the painful anxiety attendant on their frequent separation from each other, and the uncertainty of the fate of the rest of their family, overwhelmed them with grief.

26th. Expression is too weak to describe their distress, on leaving their children with these hard masters; they were not unacquainted with many of the difficulties, to which they would necessarily be exposed in a residence amongst Indians, and the loss which the young people would sustain, for want of a civilized and Christian education.

27th. In this desponding situation, the kindness of sympathy was awakened in one of the Indian women, who even forgot her prejudices, and wiped away the tears which trickled down Elizabeth Gilbert's cheeks.

The particular attention of Col. Johnson's housekeeper to them, from a commiseration of their distress, claims their remembrance: Benjamin, his wife, and Jesse Gilbert, were invited to her house, where she not only gave the old folks her best room, but ad-
B 5 ministered

ministered to their necessities, and endeavoured to sooth their sorrows.

Jesse Gilbert was favoured to get employ, which, as it was some alleviation of his misfortunes, may be considered as a providential kindness.

28th. A few days after they came to the fort, they had information that Benjamin Peart was by the river side with the Indians; upon hearing this report, his mother went to see him, but every attempt for his release was in vain, the Indians would by no means give him up. From this place they intended to march with their prisoner to the Genesee River, about an hundred miles distance. As the affectionate mother's solicitations proved fruitless, her son not only felt the afflicting loss of his wife and child, from whom he had been torn some time before, but a renewal of his grief, on this short sight of his parent: she procured him a hat, and also some salt, which was an acceptable burden for the journey.

Benjamin Gilbert, conversing with the Indian captain who made them captives, observed that he might say what none of the other Indians could, "That he had brought in the "oldest man, and the youngest child;" his reply to this was expressive; "It was not I, "but the great God who brought you "through, for we were determined to kill "you, but were prevented."

The

endeavour-

get employ,
tion of his
as a provi-

came to the
t Benjamin
the Indians;
another went
for his re-
ould by no
place they
soner to the
d miles dis-
er's sollicita-
ot only felt
child, from
ime before,
e short fight
n a hat, and
ptable bur-

with the In-
ves, observ-
of the other
ught in the
child;" his
t was not I,
rought you
ned to kill

The

The British officers, being acquainted that Jesse Gilbert's wife was among the Indians, with great tenderness agreed to seek her out, and after a diligent enquiry, found that she was among the Delawares; they went to them, and endeavoured to agree upon terms for her releasement; the Indians brought her to the fort the next day, but would not give her up to her relations.

29th. As the cabins of the Indians were but two miles from the fort, they went thither, and Jesse and the officers used every argument in their power to prevail upon them, representing how hard it was to part these two young people; at length they consented to bring her in next day, with their whole tribe, for a final release.

30th. They accordingly came, but started so many objections, that she was obliged to return with them.

31st. Early next morning Capt. Robeson generously undertook to procure her liberty, which, after much attention and solicitude, he, together with Lieutenant Hillyard, happily accomplished. They gave the Indians several small presents, and gave them thirty pounds as a ransom.

When Sarah Gilbert had obtained her liberty, she altered her dress more in character for her sex, than she had been able to do whilst amongst the Indians, and went to her husband

husband and parents at Col. Johnson's, where she was joyfully received.

Col. Johnson's housekeeper continued her kind attentions to them, during their stay here, and procured clothing for them from the king's stores.

6th Month, 1st. About this time the Senecas, among whom Elizabeth Peart was captive, brought her with them to the fort; as soon as the mother heard of it, she went to her, and had some conversation with her, but could not learn where she was to be sent to; she then enquired of the interpreter, and pressed on his friendship, to learn what was to become of her daughter; this request he complied with, and informed her that she was to be given away to another family of the Senecas, and adopted among them, in the place of a deceased relation. Capt. Powel interested himself in her case likewise, and offered to purchase her of them, but the Indians refused to give her up; and as the mother and daughter expected they should see each other no more, their parting was very affecting.

The Indian woman who had adopted Rebecca as her daughter, came also to the fort, and Elizabeth Gilbert made use of this opportunity to enquire concerning her daughter; the interpreter informed her, there was no probability of obtaining the enlargement of her child, as the Indians would not part with

with
men
of
fatig
2
rival
tario
to g
Cap
amo
diat
him
main
to u
A sh
they
beth
derst
posse
obta
very
their
wher
be a
them
licito
they
woul
could
chose
migh
side i

n's, where
 continued her
 their stay
 them from

e the Se-
 Peart was
 the fort;
 he went to
 h her, but
 e sent to;
 and pref-
 at was to
 t he com-
 he was to
 of the Se-
 the place
 wel inte-
 and offer-
 e Indians
 other and
 ach other
 fting.

opted Re-
 y the fort,
 this op-
 r daugh-
 there was
 argement
 not part
 with

with her: all she could do, was, to recom-
 mend her to their notice, as very weakly, and
 of consequence not able to endure much
 fatigue.

2d. and 3d. Not many days after their ar-
 rival at Niagara, a vessel came up Lake On-
 tario to the fort, with orders for the prisoners
 to go to Montreal. In this vessel came one
 Capt. Brant, an Indian chief, high in rank
 amongst them. Elizabeth Gilbert imme-
 diately applied herself to solicit and interest
 him on behalf of her children, who yet re-
 mained in captivity; he readily promised her
 to use his endeavours to procure their liberty.
 A short time before they sailed for Montreal,
 they received accounts of Abner and Eliza-
 beth Gilbert the younger, but it was also un-
 derstood that their possessors were not dis-
 posed to give them up. As the prospect of
 obtaining the release of their children was so
 very discouraging, it was no alleviation to
 their distress, to be removed to Montreal,
 where, in all probability, they would seldom
 be able to gain any information respecting
 them; on which account they were very so-
 licitous to stay at Niagara, but the Col. said
 they could not remain there, unless the son
 would enter into the king's service; this
 could not be consented to, therefore they
 chose to submit to every calamity which
 might be permitted to befall them, and con-
 fide in the great controller of events.

Here

Here they became acquainted with one Jesse Pawling, from Pennsylvania, who was an officer among the British, and behaved with kindness and respect to the prisoners, which induced them to request his attention also to that part of the family remaining in captivity; it appeared to them of some consequence to gain an additional friend. The Col. also gave his promise to exert himself on their behalf.

After continuing ten days at Col. Johnson's, they took boat in the forenoon of the 2d. being the sixth day of the week, and crossed the river Niagara, in order to go on board the vessel, which lay in Lake Ontario, for Montreal. The officers procured necessities for their voyage in great plenty, and they were also furnished with orders to draw more at certain places, as they might have occasion: these civilities may appear to many to be too trivial to be mentioned in this narrative; but those who have been in equal distress, will not be insensible of their value.

4th. The vessel sailed down the Lake on the sixth day of the week, and on first-day following, being the fourth day of the sixth month, 1780, came to Carlton Island, where there were such a number of small boats, which brought provisions, that it had the appearance of a fleet. Benjamin Gilbert and Jesse went on shore to obtain leave from
the

ed with one
ia, who was
nd behaved
e prisoners,
his attention
remaining in
f some con-
riend. The
kert himself

Col. John-
noon of the
week, and
er to go on
ake Ontario,
ured neces-
plenty, and
ers to draw
might have
ear to many
in this nar-
n in equal
their value.
ne Lake on
on first-day
of the sixth
land, where
small boats,
had the ap-
Gilbert and
leave from
the

the commanding officer to go to Montreal in the small boats, as the vessel they came in could proceed no further: they met with a kind reception, and their request was granted.

5th. On second day following, they left Carlton Island, which lies at the mouth of Lake Ontario, and took their passage in open boats down the river St. Laurence, and passed a number of small islands. There is a rapid descent in the waters of this river, which appears dangerous to those unacquainted with these kind of falls. The Frenchmen, who rowed the boats, kept them near the shore, and passed without much difficulty between the rocks.

6th, 7th, and 8th. Benjamin Gilbert had been much indisposed before they left the fort, and his disorder was increased by a rain which fell on their passage, as they were without any covering. They passed Oswagatchy, an English garrison, by the side of the river, but they were not permitted to stop here; they proceeded down the St. Laurence, and the rain continuing, went on shore on an island, in order to secure themselves from the weather: here they made a shelter for Benjamin Gilbert, and when the rain ceased, a place was prepared for him in the boat, that he might lie down with more ease. His bodily weakness made such rapid progress, that
it

it rendered all the care and attention of his wife necessary, and likewise called forth all her fortitude; she supported him in her arms, affording every possible relief to mitigate his extreme pains: and although in this distressed condition, he, notwithstanding, gave a satisfactory evidence of the virtue and power of a patient and holy resignation, which can disarm the king of terrors, and receive him as a welcome messenger. Thus prepared, he passed from this state of probation, the eighth day of the sixth month, 1780, in the evening, leaving his wife and two children, who were with him, in all the anxiety of deep distress, although they had no doubt, but that their loss was his everlasting gain. Being without a light in the boat, the darkness of the night added not a little to their melancholy situation. As there were not any others with Elizabeth Gilbert but her children, and the four Frenchmen who managed the boat, and her apprehensions alarmed her, lest they should throw the corpse overboard, as they appeared to be an unfeeling company; she therefore applied to some British officers who were in a boat behind them, who dispelled her fears, and received her under their protection.

9th. In the morning they passed the garrison of Coeur de Lac, and waited for some considerable time a small distance below it.

'Squire

'Squire
prison
bert's
of this
put the
under
boat-m
the last
of her
on this
sensible
dispens
which
voured
tions, a

Near
which i
ed into
being v
to turn
pense o

The
with an
so dang
further
ing, an
fort La
houses i
it was w
room be
to, and
ten othe

'Squire Campbell, who had the charge of the prisoners, when he heard of Benjamin Gilbert's decease, sent Jesse to the commandant of this garrison to get a coffin, in which they put the corpse, and very hastily interred him under an oak not far from the fort. The boat-men would not allow his widow to pay the last tribute to his memory, but regardless of her affliction, refused to wait; her distress on this occasion was great indeed, but being sensible that it was her duty to submit to the dispensations of an over-ruling providence, which are all ordered in wisdom, she endeavoured to support herself under her afflictions, and proceeded with the boat-men.

Near this place they passed by a grist-mill, which is maintained by a stone wing extended into the river St. Laurence; the stream being very rapid, acquires a force sufficient to turn the wheel, without the further expense of a dam.

The current carried their boat forwards with amazing rapidity, and the falls became so dangerous, that the boats could proceed no further; they therefore landed in the evening, and went to the commanding officer of fort Lasheen to request a lodging, but the houses in the garrison were so crowded, that it was with difficulty they obtained a small room belonging to the boat-builders to retire to, and here they stowed themselves with ten others.

10th. The

10th. The garrison of Lasheen is on the isle of Jesu, on which the town of Montreal stands, about the distance of nine miles; hither our travellers had to go by land, and as they were entirely unacquainted with the road, they took the advantage of an empty cart (which was going to the town) for the women to ride in.

The land in this neighbourhood is very stony, and the soil thin; the cattle small, and ill favoured.

When they arrived at Montreal, they were introduced to Brigadier General M'Clean, who after examining them, sent them to one Duquesne, an officer amongst the loyalists, who being from home, they were desired to wait in the yard until he came; this want of politeness gave them no favourable impressions of the master of the house; when he returned he read their pass, and gave Jesse an order for three days provisions.

Daniel M'Ulphin received them into his house; by him they were treated with great kindness, and the women continued at his house, and worked five weeks for him.

Jesse Gilbert met with employ at Thomas Busby's, where he lived very agreeably for the space of nine months.

Elizabeth Gilbert had the satisfaction of an easy employ at Adam Scott's, merchant, having the superintendence of his kitchen; but
about

abo
vice
The
her
wh
to r
be c
rati
very
ing
need
ft. a
Cam
bell
ferin
conc
dier
dim
the
that
be p
ever
ries
A
her
Adam
Th
tion,
Quak
York
his re

een is on the
of Montreal
nine miles;
py land, and
ted with the
of an empty
wn) for the

ood is very
cattle small,

al, they were
al M'Clean,
them to one
he loyalists,
e desired to
this want of
ble impres-
e; when he
d gave Jesse

em into his
l with great
nued at his
him.

oy at Tho-
y agreeably

action of an
erchant, hav-
itchen; but
about

about six weeks after she engaged in his service, Jesse's wife Sarah was taken sick at Thomas Busby's, which made it necessary for her mother to disengage herself from the place where she was so agreeably situated, in order to nurse her. These three were favoured to be considered as the king's prisoners, having rations allowed them; this assistance was very comfortable, but Elizabeth's name being erased out of the list at a time when they needed an additional supply, they were much frightened: upon an application to one Col. Campbell, he, together with 'Squire Campbell, took down a short account of her sufferings and situation, and after preparing a concise narrative, they applied to the Brigadier General, to forward it to General Hal-
dimand at Quebec, desiring his attention to the sufferers, who speedily issued his orders that the releasement of the family should be procured, with particular injunctions for every garrison to furnish them with necessaries as they came down.

As soon as Sarah Gilbert recovered from her indisposition, her mother returned to Adam Scott's family.

Thomas Gomersom hearing of their situation, came to see them; he was educated a Quaker, and had been a merchant of New-York, and travelled with Robert Walker in his religious visits; but, upon the commencement

ment of the war, had deviated from his former principles, and had lost all the appearance of a friend, wearing a sword: he behaved with respect to the prisoners, and made Elizabeth a present.

The particular attention of Col. Closs, and the care he shewed by writing to Niagara, on behalf of the captives, as he was entirely a stranger to her, is remembered with gratitude.

As there was an opportunity of hearing from Niagara, it gave them great pleasure to be informed that Elizabeth Gilbert was amongst the white people, she having obtained her release from the Indians, prior to the others.

Sarah Gilbert, wife of Jesse, becoming a mother, Elizabeth left the service she was engaged in, Jesse having taken a house, that she might give her daughter every necessary attendance; and in order to make their situation as comfortable as possible, they took a child to nurse, which added a little to their income. After this, Elizabeth Gilbert hired herself to iron a day for Adam Scott; whilst she was at her work, a little girl belonging to the house, acquainted her that there were some who wanted to see her, and upon entering into the room, she found six of her children; the joy and surprise she felt on this occasion were beyond what we shall

d from his
all the ap-
sword: he
soners, and

. Clofs, and
to Niagara,
was entirely
with grati-

of hearing
at pleasure
Gilbert was
having ob-
s, prior to

becoming
ice she was
house, that
ery neces-
to make
s possible;
h added a
Elizabeth
for Adam
k, a little
ainted her
to see her,
she found
urprise she
what we
shall

shall attempt to describe. A messenger was sent to inform Jesse and his wife, that Joseph Gilbert, Benjamin Peart, Elizabeth his wife, and young child, Abner and Elizabeth Gilbert, the younger, were with their mother. It must afford very pleasing reflections to any affectionate disposition, to dwell a while on this scene, that after a captivity of upwards of fourteen months, so happy a meeting should take place.

Thomas Peart, who had obtained his liberty, and tarried at Niagara, that he might be of service to the two yet remaining in captivity, viz. Benjamin Gilbert, jun. and Rebecca Gilbert.

Abigail Dodson, the daughter of a neighbouring farmer, who was taken with them, having inadvertently informed the Indians she was not of the Gilbert family, all attempts for her liberty were fruitless.

We shall now proceed to relate how Joseph Gilbert, the eldest son of the deceased, fared amongst the Indians: he, with Thomas Peart, Benjamin Gilbert, jun. and Jesse Gilbert's wife Sarah, were taken along the Westward Path, as before related; after some short continuance in this path, Thomas Peart and Joseph Gilbert were taken from the other two, and by a different route, through many difficulties, they were brought to Caracadara, where they received the insults of the women and

and children, whose husbands or parents had fallen in their hostile excursions.

Joseph Gilbert was separated from his companion, and removed to an Indian villa, called Nundow, about seven miles from Caracadera; his residence was, for several weeks, in the king's family, whose hamlet was superior to the other small huts. The king himself brought him some hommony, and treated him with great civility, intending his adoption into the family, in the place of one of his sons, who was slain when General Sullivan drove them from their habitations. As Nundow was not to be the place of his abode, his quarters were soon changed, and he was taken back to Caracadera; but his weakness of body was so great, that he was two days accomplishing this journey, which was only seven miles, and not able to procure any other food than roots and herbs, the India oeconomy leaving them without any provisions to subsist on. Here they adopted him into the family of one of the king's sons, informing him, that if he would marry amongst them, he should enjoy the privileges which they enjoyed; but this proposal he was not disposed to comply with; and as he was not over anxious to conceal his dislike to them, the sufferings he underwent were not alleviated. The manner of his life differing so much from what he had before

parents had

from his
Indian villa,
miles from
for several
of his hamlet
huts. The
hommony,
, intending
the place of
General
habitations.
the place of
changed,
Cadera; but
that, that he
his journey,
not able to
and herbs,
without
Here they
one of the
he would
enjoy the
at this pro-
ply with;
to conceal
he under-
manner of
at he had
before

before been accustomed to, having to eat the wild roots and herbs before-mentioned, and as he had been lame from a child, and subject to frequent indispositions, it was requisite for him to pay more attention to his weak habit of body, than his captors were willing he should. When the master of the family was at home, the respect he shewed to Joseph, and his kindness to him, rendered his situation more tolerable than in his absence. Frequently suffering with hunger, the privilege of a plenteous table appeared to him as an inestimable blessing, which claimed the warmest devotion of gratitude: in such a distressed situation, the hours rolled over with a tediousness almost insupportable, as he had no agreeable employ to relieve his mind from the reflections of his sorrowful captivity: this manner of life continued about three months, and when they could no longer procure a supply by their hunting, necessity compelled them to go to Niagara Fort for provision. The greater number of the Indians belonging to Caracadera attended on this journey, in order to obtain a supply of provisions; their want of oeconomy being so great, as to have consumed so early as the eighth month all they had raised the last year, and the present crops unfit to gather: their profuse manner of using their scant pittance of provision, generally introducing a
famine,

amine, after a short time of feasting. They compute the distance from Caracadera, to Niagara fort, to be of 130 miles ; on this journey they were upwards of five days, taking some venison in their route, and feasting with great greediness, as they had been a long time without meat.

When they reached the fort, they procured clothing from the king's stores for Joseph Gilbert, such as the Indians usually wear themselves, a match-coat, leggings, &c. His indisposition confined him at Col. Johnson's for several days, during which time the British officers endeavoured to agree with the Indians for his releasement, but they would not consent. The afflicting account of the death of his father, which was here communicated to him, spread an additional gloom on his mind. After continuing at the fort about four weeks, the Indians ordered him back with them ; this was a sore stroke, to leave a degree of ease and plenty, and resume the hardships of an Indian life : with this uncomfortable prospect before him, added to his lameness, the journey was toilsome and painful. They were five days in their return, and when they arrived, their corn was ripe for use ; this, with the advantage of hunting, as the game was in its greatest perfection, furnished a present comfortable subsistence.

Joseph

J
cap
tow
anc
nica
mot
A
Gilb
then
the
tend
prese
the
wom
perfo
Th
agree
rity i
when
obser
indul
soon
succee
In
their
to hav
and ro
provis
carcass
and ro
An
quire i

sting. They
aracadera, to
s; on this
f five days,
te, and feast-
ey had been

ney procured
for Joseph
usually wear
gs, &c. His
l. Johnson's
me the Bri-
ee with the
they would
ount of the
ere commu-
onal gloom
at the fort
ordered him
e stroke, to
and resume
: with this
m, added to
oilsome and
their return,
rn was ripe
ge of hunt-
greatest per-
ortable sub-

Joseph

Joseph had permission to visit his fellow captive, Thomas Peart, who was at a small town of the Indians, about seven miles distance, called Nundow, to whom he communicated the sorrowful intelligence of their mother's widowed situation.

At the first approach of spring, Joseph Gilbert and his adopted brother employed themselves in procuring rails, and repairing the fence about the lot of ground they intended to plant with corn; as this part of preserving the grain was allotted to them, the planting and culture was assigned to the women, their husbandry being altogether performed by the hoe.

The Indian manner of life was by no means agreeable to Joseph Gilbert; their irregularity in their meals was hard for him to bear; when they had provisions in plenty, they observed no plan of domestic oeconomy, but indulged their voracious appetites, which soon consumed their stock, and a famine succeeded.

In the early part of the sixth month, 1781, their corn was spent, and they were obliged to have recourse again to the wild herbage and roots, and were so reduced for want of provision, that the Indians having found the carcase of a dead horse, they took the meat and roasted it.

An officer from the fort came down to enquire into the situation of the Indians, upon
C observing

observing the low condition Joseph was in, not being likely to continue long without some relief, which the officer privately afforded, he being permitted to frequent his house, he advised him by flight, to endeavour an escape from the Indians, informing him that he had no other expedient for his release; this confirmed him in a resolution he had for some time been contemplating, but his lameness and weak habit, for want of proper sustenance, rendered it impracticable to make such an attempt at that time, and it would require much care and attention to his own health and strength, to gather sufficient for such an undertaking; he therefore made use of the liberty allowed him to visit the officer, and partake of his kindness and assistance, that he might be prepared for the journey.

Embracing a favourable opportunity, when the men were generally from home, some in their war expeditions, and some out hunting, he left them one night whilst the family slept, and made the best of his way towards Niagara fort, following the path, as he had once before gone along it. Having a small piece of bread which he took from the hut, he made a hasty repast, travelling day and night, in order to escape from the further distresses of captivity. As he neither took any sleep, or other food by the way than the

piece

piece
and
much
he e
Upon
hosp
three
town
A
fami
wait
was
to pr
W
rema
the I
was f
taken
sent
nation
their
which
Indian
to be
order
wome
the rel
after t
tion)
below
days,

ph was in,
 ng without
 ively af-
 frequent his
 to endea-
 informing
 ent for his
 a resolution
 contemplating,
 for want of
 practicable
 time, and it
 attention to
 gather suf-
 ne therefore
 him to visit
 ndness and
 are for the
 unity, when
 ne, some in
 out hunt-
 the family
 way towards
 , as he had
 ing a small
 om the hut,
 ng day and
 the further
 either took
 way than the
 piece

piece of bread mentioned, for the two days and nights he pursued his journey, he was much fatigued when he reached the fort, and he experienced the effects for several days. Upon his applying to Col. Johnson, he was hospitably entertained, and the next day saw three of the Indians whom he had left at the town when he set off.

After a few days stay here, as most of the family were discharged from captivity, and waiting for a passage to Montreal, a vessel was fitted to take them on board, in order to proceed down the lake.

We come next to Benjamin Peart, who remained the first night after his arriving at the Indian huts, with his wife and child, but was separated from them the next day, and taken about a mile and an half, and presented to one of the families of the Seneca nation, and afterwards introduced to one of their chiefs, who made a long harangue, which Benjamin did not understand. The Indians then gave him to a Squaw, in order to be received as her adopted child, who ordered him to a private hut, where the women wept over him in remembrance of the relation in whose stead he was received: after this he went with his mother (by adoption) to Niagara river, about two miles below the great falls, and staid here several days, then went to the fort on their way to the

the Genesee River, where he had the pleasure of conversing with his mother, and receiving information concerning his wife and child; but even this satisfaction was short-lived, for he neither could obtain permission to visit his wife, nor was he allowed to converse freely with his mother, as the Indians hurried him on board their bark canoes, where having placed their provisions, they proceeded with expedition down the Lake to the mouth of the Genesee River; the computed distance from the small village to the mouth of the river being one hundred miles, and from thence up the Genesee to the place of their destination, thirty miles; in their passage up the river they were about five days, and as the falls in this river near its entrance into Lake Ontario has made a carrying-place of about two miles, they dragged their canoe this distance to the place of boating above the falls. There were nine Indians of the party with them. They frequently caught fish by the way.

It no doubt was a sore affliction to Benjamin, to be so far removed from his wife and child whilst among the Indians: patience and resignation alone could endure it.

When the party arrived at the place of their designed settlement, they soon erected a small hut or wigwam, and the ground being rich and level, they began with their plan-

planta
who ha
Susque
in Pen
ment,
use th
These
Peart's
their c
doing
much

His
health
had no
afflicte
him n
edly e
knowl
proved
winter
Their
weakly
than h
even o
tite in
sufficie
pany c
visited
town h
eightee
nities c
distress

plantation of Indian corn. Two white men who had been taken prisoners, the one from Susquehanna, the other from Minisinks, both in Pennsylvania, lived near his new settlement, and were allowed by the Indians to use the horses, and plant for themselves. These men lightened the toil of Benjamin Peart's servitude, as he was frequently in their company, and he had the liberty of doing something for himself, though without much success.

His new habitation, as it was not very healthy, introduced fresh difficulties, for he had not continued here long, before he was afflicted with sickness, which preyed upon him near three months, the Indians repeatedly endeavouring to relieve him by their knowledge in simples, but their endeavours proved ineffectual; the approach of the winter season afforded the relief sought for. Their provision was not very tempting to a weakly constitution, having nothing else than hommony, and but short allowance even of that, insomuch that when his appetite increased, he could not procure food sufficient to recruit his strength. The company of his brother Thomas Peart, who visited him, was a great comfort, and as the town he lived at was but the distance of eighteen miles, they had frequent opportunities of condoling with each other in their distress.

The Indian men being absent on one of their war excursions, and the women employed in gathering the corn, left Benjamin Peart much leisure to reflect in solitude.

Towards the beginning of the winter season the men returned, and built themselves a log house for a granary, and then removed about twenty miles from their settlement into the hunting country, and procured a great variety of game, which they usually eat without bread or salt. As he had been with the Indians for several months, their language became more familiar to him.

Hunting and feasting after their manner being their only employ, they soon cleared the place where they settled of the game, which made a second removal necessary, and they are so accustomed to this wandering life, that it becomes their choice.

They fixed up a log hut in this second hunting-place, and continued until the second month, when they returned to their first settlement, though their stay was but a few days, and then back again to their log hut.

A heavy rain falling melted some of the snow, which had covered the ground about two feet deep.

The whole family concluded upon a journey to Niagara Fort by land, which was completed in seven days. At the fort he had the satisfaction of conversing with his brother

ther
wife
the
after
of
after
it o
Ind
mu
rem
less
life,
and
dista
peru
and
purp
him
their
was
cure
orde
he f
Indi
plain
his
to r
H
befo
he l
oppo

on one of
women em-
Benjamin
itude.

winter sea-
themselves
en removed
settlement
procured a
they usually
e had been
nths, their
him.

ir manner
on cleared
the game,
essary, and
wandering

his second
the second
r first set-
out a few
log hut.
me of the
und about

on a jour-
which was
ort he had
his bro-
ther

ther Thomas Peart, and the same day his wife also came from Buffalo Creek, with the Senecas to the fort; this happy meeting, after an absence of ten months, drew tears of joy from them. He made an inquiry after his child, as he had neither heard from it or the mother since their separation. The Indians not approving of their conversing much together, as they imagined they would remember their former situation, and become less contented with their present manner of life, they separated them again the same day, and took Benjamin's wife about four miles distance; but the party with whom he came, permitted him to stay here several nights; and when the Indians had completed their purpose of traffick, they returned, taking him some miles back with them to one of their towns; but upon his telling them he was desirous of returning to the fort to procure something he had before forgot, in order for his journey, he was permitted. As he staid the night, his adopted brother the Indian came for him; but upon his complaining that he was so lame as to prevent his travelling with them, they suffered him to remain behind.

He continued at the fort about two months before the Indians came back again, and as he laboured for the white people, he had an opportunity of procuring salt provision from

the king's stores, which had been for a long time a dainty to him.

When one of the Indians (a second adopted brother) came for him, Benjamin went with him to Capt. Powel, who with earnest solicitations, and some presents, prevailed upon the Indian to suffer him to stay until he returned from his war expedition; but this was the last he ever made, as he lost his life on the frontiers of New-York.

After this another Captain (a third adopted brother) came to the fort, and when Benjamin Peart saw him, he applied to Adjutant General Wilkinson to intercede for his release, who accordingly waited upon Col. Johnson and other officers, to prevail with them to exert themselves on his behalf; they concluded to hold a council with the Indians for this purpose, who, after some deliberation, surrendered him up to Col. Johnson, for which he gave them a valuable compensation.

Benjamin Peart, after his release, was employed in Col. Johnson's service, and continued with him for several months. His child had been released for some time, and his wife, by earnest intreaty and plea of sickness, had prevailed with the Indians to permit her stay at the fort, which proved a great consolation and comfort after so long a separation.

About

Ab
there
ceedi
were
ship w
were
wife a
beth C
board
as far a
can pre
account
obliged

The
cured
furnish
the seve

In tw
of Cha
mander
tain wh
they co
gotchy,
rence,
French
employe

The f
that the
remain i
shore un
Frenchm

About the middle of the eighth month there was preparation made for their proceeding to Montreal, as by this time there were six of the prisoners ready to go in a ship which lay in Lake Ontario, whose names were Joseph Gilbert, Benjamin Peart, his wife and child, Abner Gilbert, and Elizabeth Gilbert the younger. These went on board the vessel to Charlton Island, which is as far as the large vessels they use in the lake can proceed; the remainder of the way (on account of the frequent shoals) they are obliged to go in smaller boats.

The commanding officer at Niagara procured a suitable supply of provision, and furnished them with orders to draw more at the several garrisons, as occasion required.

In two days they arrived at the upper end of Charlton Island, and went to the commander in chief to shew their pass, and obtain what they were in need of. Afterwards they continued on to the garrison of Oswagotchy, by the side of the river St. Lawrence, in an open boat rowed by four Frenchmen, this class of people being chiefly employed in laborious services.

The stream was so rapid, and full of rocks, that the prisoners were too much alarmed to remain in the boat, and concluded to go on shore until they passed the danger; but the Frenchmen, who had been accustomed to

these wild and violent rapids (the longest of which is known by the name of the long Sou) kept on board. This surprizing scene continued for the distance of six miles, and they viewed it with a degree of horror, their heads becoming almost giddy with the prospect. When the boats had shot the falls, they again went on board, and continued down the river to Cour de Lac. No great distance below this they anchored, and landed at the place where their father was interred, shedding many tears of filial affection to his memory. They afterwards applied to the commanding officer of the garrison for provisions and other necessities; they then bid adieu to this solemn spot of sorrow, and proceeded to Lasheen, which they reached the twenty-fourth day of the eighth month, having been eight days on their voyage.

After refreshing themselves at this garrison, they set forward on foot for Montreal, which they reached the same day. They went to the Brigadier General, and shewed him their passport, and as soon as at liberty waited on their mother at Adam Scott's, as has been already related.

The situation of Elizabeth Peart, wife of Benjamin, and her child, is next to be related.

After she and the child were parted from her husband, Abigail Dodson and the child were

wer
litt
the
mil
into
cere
and
with
chie
wor
sider
riag
mos
min
this
clud
drea
as sh
A
to o
so th
T
comp
they
paren
stile,
made
ing
them
habit
Fort

the longest of
the long Sou)
g scene con-
les, and they
horror, their
with the pro-
ot the falls,
d continued
. No great
chored, and
their father
ears of filial
y afterwards
ficer of the
ther neces-
this solemn
to Lasheen,
-fourth day
n eight days

his garrison,
real, which
ey went to
d him their
y waited on
s has been

art, wife of
to be re-

arted from
the child
were

were taken several miles in the night to a little hut, where they staid till morning, and the day following were taken within eight miles of Niagara, where she was adopted into one of the families of Senecas; the ceremony of adoption to her was tedious and distressing; they obliged her to sit down with a young man an Indian, and the eldest chieftain of the family repeating a jargon of words to her unintelligible, but which she considered as some form amongst them of marriage, and this apprehension introduced the most violent agitations, as she was determined, at all events, to oppose any step of this nature; but after the old Indian concluded his speech, she was relieved from the dreadful embarrassment she had been under, as she was led away by another Indian.

Abigail Dodson was given the same day to one of the families of the Cayuga nation, so that Elizabeth Peart saw her no more.

The man who led Elizabeth from the company took her into the family for whom they adopted her, and introduced her to her parents, brothers and sisters in the Indian stile, who received her very kindly, and made a grievous lamentation over her according to custom. After she had been with them two days, the whole family left their habitation, and went about two miles to Fort Slusher, where they staid several days.

This fort is about one mile above Niagara Falls.

As she was much indisposed, the Indians were detained several days for her; but as they cared little for her, she was obliged to lie on the damp ground, which prevented her speedy recovery. As soon as her disorder abated of its violence, they set off in a bark canoe which they had provided, intending for Buffalo Creek; and as they went slowly, they had an opportunity of taking some fish.

When they arrived at the place of their intended settlement, they went on shore, and built an house.

A few days after they came to this new settlement, they returned with Elizabeth to Fort Slusher, when she was told her child must be taken away from her; this was truly afflicting, but all remonstrances were in vain.

From Fort Slusher she travelled on foot, carrying her child to Niagara, it being eighteen miles, and in sultry weather, rendered it a painful addition to the thoughts of parting with her tender offspring. The intent of their journey was to obtain provisions, and their stay at the fort was of several days continuance. Capt. Powel afforded her an asylum in his house.

The Indians took the child from her, and went with it across the river to adopt it into the

bove Niagara

the Indians
her; but as
s obliged to
ch prevented
as her disor-
set off in a
ded, intend-
s they went
y of taking

ace of their
n shore, and

to this new
Elizabeth to
d her child
is was truly
ere in vain.
ed on foot,
being eigh-
r, rendered
ts of part-
The intent
provisions,
veral days,
led her an

n her, and
opt it into
the

the family they had assigned for it, notwith-
standing Capt. Powel, at his wife's request,
interceded that it might not be removed
from its mother; but as it was so young,
they returned it to the mother after its adop-
tion, until it should be convenient to send
it to the family under whose protection it
was to be placed.

Obtaining the provision and other neces-
saries they came to Niagara to trade for,
they returned to Fort Shusher on foot, from
whence they embarked in their canoes. It
being near the time of planting, they used
much expedition in this journey.

The labour and drudgery in a family fall-
ing to the share of the women, Elizabeth
had to assist the Squaw in preparing the
ground, and planting corn.

Their provision being scant they suffered
much, and as their dependence for a suffi-
cient supply until the gathering their crop,
was on what they should receive from the
fort, they were under the necessity of making
a second journey thither.

They were two days on the road at this
time. A small distance before they came to
the fort, they took her child from her, and
sent it to its destined family, and it was sever-
al months before she had an opportunity of
seeing it again. After being taken from her
husband, to lose her darling infant, was a
severe

severe stroke: she lamented her condition, and wept sorely, for which one of the Indians inhumanly struck her. Her Indian father seemed a little moved to behold her so distressed; and in order to console her, assured her they would bring it back again, but she saw it not until the spring following.

After they had disposed of their peltries, they returned to their habitation by the same route which they had come.

With a heart oppressed with sorrow, Elizabeth trod back her steps, mourning for her lost infant; for this idea presented itself continually to her mind; but as she experienced how fruitless, nay, how dangerous, solicitations in behalf of her child were, she dried up her tears, and pined in secret.

Soon after they reached their own habitation, Elizabeth Peart was again afflicted with sickness. At the first they shewed some attention to her complaints; but as she did not speedily recover so as to be able to work, they discontinued every attention, and built a small hut by the side of the corn-field, placing her in it to mind the corn. In this lonely condition she saw a white man, who had been made prisoner among the Indians: he informed her that her child was released, and with the white people; this information revived her drooping spirits, and a short time after she recovered of her indisposition, but her employment

employ
corn
assiste
perm

A
lived
throu

A
day,
to hi
ingly
and a
laid h
her ab
of the
from
effect
it tota
manity

A
leaving
the ple
who w
er, wh
ed her
Genese
hundre
telliger
solation
in her

employment still continued of attending the corn until it was ripe for gathering, which she assisted in. When the harvest was over, they permitted her to return, and live with them.

A time of plenty commenced, and they lived as if they had sufficient to last the year through, faring plenteously every day.

A drunken Indian came to the cabin one day, and the old Indian woman complaining to him of Elizabeth, his behaviour exceedingly terrified her; he stormed like a fury, and at length struck her a violent blow, which laid her on the ground; he then began to pull her about, and abuse her much, when another of the women interposed, and rescued her from further suffering: such is the shocking effect of spirituous liquor on these people; it totally deprives them both of sense and humanity.

A tedious winter prevented them from leaving their habitation, and deprived her of the pleasure of hearing often from her friends, who were very much scattered; but a prisoner, who had lately seen her husband, informed her of his being much indisposed at the Genesee River, which was upwards of one hundred miles distance: on receiving this intelligence, she stood in need of much consolation, but had no source of comfort, except in her own bosom.

Near

Near the return of spring their provision failing, they were compelled to go off to the fort for a fresh supply, having but a small portion of corn, which they allowanced out once each day.

Through snow and severe frost they went for Niagara, suffering much from the excessive cold. And when they came within a few miles of the fort, which they were four days accomplishing, they struck up a small wigwam for some of the family with the prisoners to live in until the return of the warriors from the fort.

As soon as Capt. Powell's wife heard that the young child's mother had come with the Indians, she desired to see her, claiming some relationship in the Indian way, as she had also been a prisoner amongst them. They granted her request, and Elizabeth was accordingly introduced, and informed that her husband was returned to the fort, and there was some expectations of his release. The same day Benjamin Peart came to see his wife, but could not be permitted to continue with her, as the Indians insisted on her going back with them to their cabin, which, as has been related, was some miles distant.

Elizabeth Peart was not allowed for some days to go from the cabin, but a white family, who had bought her child from the Indians to whom it had been presented, offered the party

party v
bottle
the riv
lighted
ing, a
eight m

She v
where
returne
After
mission
needle
afforded
length C
to suffer
house, n
granted.
on the c
with the
this mean
taking h

As th
made use
parture;
he applic
into a be
and they
two week

Her cl
her arriva
Capt. Pow

provision
off to the
at a small
anced out

they went
the ex-
within a
were four
o a small
with the
rn of the

heard that
with the
ing some
e had also
y granted
ordingly
husband
was some
ame day
ife, but
with her,
ack with
been re-

for some
e family,
e Indians
ered the
party

party with whom Elizabeth was confined a bottle of rum, if they would bring her across the river to her child, which they did, and delighted the fond mother with this happy meeting, as she had not seen it for the space of eight months.

She was permitted to stay with the family where her child was for two days, when she returned with the Indians to their cabin. After some time she obtained a further permission to go to the fort, where she had some needle work from the white people, which afforded her a plea for often visiting it. At length Capt. Powell's wife prevailed with them to suffer her to continue a few days at her house, and work for her family, which was granted. At the expiration of the time, upon the coming of the Indians for her to return with them, she pleaded indisposition, and by this means they were repeatedly dissuaded from taking her with them.

As the time of planting drew nigh, she made use of a little address to retard her departure; having a small swelling on her neck, she applied a poultice, which led the Indians into a belief it was improper to remove her, and they consented to come again for her in two weeks.

Her child was given up to her soon after her arrival at the fort, where she lodged at Capt. Powell's, and her husband came frequently

ly to visit her, which was a great happiness, as her trials in their separation had been many.

At the time appointed some of the Indians came again, but she still pleaded indisposition, and had confined herself to her bed. One of the women interrogated her very closely, but did not insist upon her going back. Thus several months elapsed, she contriving delays as often as they came.

When the vessel which was to take the other five, among whom were her husband and child, was ready to sail, the officers at Niagara concluded she might also go with them, as they saw no reasonable objection, and they doubted not but it was in their power to satisfy those Indians, who considered her as their property.

Abner Gilbert, another of the captives, when the company had reached the Indian town within three miles of Niagara Fort, was, with Elizabeth Gilbert the younger, separated from the rest, about the latter part of the fifth month 1780, and were both adopted into John Huston's family, who was of the Cayuga nation. After a stay of three days at or near the settlement of these Indians, they removed to a place near the great falls, which is about eighteen miles distant from the fort, and loitered here three days more; they then crossed the river, and settled near its banks, clearing a piece

a piece
for
corn,
fort.

After
up the
with the
the river
small v
opposit
They f
great c
should
after tra
to their
about o
must go
left the
of the fa
are very
place of
day and
with the
for Butle
They we
John Sec
chief of th
time befo
After se
Elizabeth
family till
change to

a piece of land, and prepared it by the hoe for planting. Until they could gather their corn, their dependance was entirely upon the fort.

After the space of three weeks, they packed up their moveables, which they generally carry with them in their rambles, and went down the river to get provisions at Butlersbury, a small village built by Col. Butler, and is on the opposite side of the river to Niagara Fort. They staid one night at the village, observing great caution that none of the white people should converse with the prisoners. Next day, after transacting their business, they returned to their settlement, and continued there but about one week, when it was concluded they must go again for Butlersbury; after they had left their habitation a small distance, the head of the family met with his brother, and as they are very ceremonious in such interviews, the place of meeting was their rendezvous for the day and night. In the morning the family, with the brother before mentioned, proceeded for Butlersbury, and reached it before night. They went to the house of an Englishman, one John Secord, who was stiled brother to the chief of the family, having lived with him some time before.

After some deliberation, it was agreed that Elizabeth Gilbert should continue in this family till sent for; this was an agreeable change to her.

Abner

Abner returned with them to the settlement, his employ being to fence and secure the corn-patch; sometimes he had plenty of provisions, but was often in want.

The mistress of the family one day intending for Butlersbury, ordered Abner to prepare to go with her; but she had not gone far before she sent him back. Notwithstanding he had long been inured to frequent disappointments, he was much mortified at returning, as he expected to have seen his sister. When the woman came home, she gave him no information about her, and all inquiries on his part would have been fruitless.

The place they had settled at served for a dwelling until fall, and as it was not very far distant from the fort, by often applying for provision, they were not so much distressed between the failing of their old crop, and the gathering of the new one, as those who lived at a greater distance.

In the fall John Huston, the head of the family, went out hunting, and in his return caught cold from his careless manner of lying in the wet, and thereby lost the use of his limbs for a long time. On being informed of his situation, the family moved to the place where he was; they fixed a shelter over him (as he was unable to move himself) and continued here about a month; but as it was remote from any settlement, and they had to go often to the

fort

fort for
to return
Indian
the cry
was for
small
not long
veying
bout n
their pl
crops,
been b
women
carrying
down t
board o
to get
usually
Abner
idle and
gathering
young,
As for
ground,
residence
ing. T
one of t
ful, tak
pines.
The
a pittan

ettlement,
e the corn-
provisions,

ay intend-
to prepare
one far be-
standing he
disappoint-
turning, as
When the
information
part would

erved for a
ot very far
plying for
tressed be-
e, and the
ho lived at

ead of the
his return
er of lying
f his limbs
med of his
lace where
aim (as he
continued
emote from
often to the
fort

fort for the necessaries of life, they concluded to return to their own habitation. Abner, one Indian man, and some of the women, carried the cripple in a blanket about two miles; this was so hard a task, they agreed to put up a small house, and wait for his recovery: But not long after they had an opportunity of conveying him on horse-back to the landing, about nine miles above the fort. As this was their plantation, and the time of gathering their crops, they took in their corn, which, as has been before observed, is the business of the women. Then they changed their quarters, carrying the lame Indian as before in a blanket, down to the river side, when they went on board canoes, and crossed the river, in order to get to their hunting-ground, where they usually spend the winter.

Abner Gilbert lived a dronish Indian life, idle and poor, having no other employ than the gathering of hickory-nuts; and although young, his situation was very irksome.

As soon as the family came to the hunting-ground, they patched up a slight hut for their residence, and employed themselves in hunting. They took Abner along with them in one of their tours, but they were then unsuccessful, taking nothing but rackoons and porcupines.

The crop of Indian corn proving too scant a pittance for the winter; Abner, on this account,

count, had some agreeable employ, which was to visit the fort, and procure a supply of provisions, which continued to be his employment for the remainder of the season.

In the spring John Huston, the Indian who had been lame the whole winter, recovered, and unhappily had it in his power to obtain a supply of rum, which he frequently drank to excess; and always, when thus debauched, was extravagantly morose, quarrelling with the women who were in the family, and at length left them. Soon after his departure, the family moved about forty miles, near Buffalo Creek, which empties its waters into Lake Erie. At this place Abner heard of his sister Rebecca Gilbert, who still remained in captivity not far from his new habitation. This was their summer residence; they therefore undertook to clear a piece of land, in which they put corn, pumpkins and squashes.

Abner, having no useful employ, amused himself with catching fish in the lake, and furnished the family with frequent messes of various kinds, which they eat without bread or salt; for the distance of this settlement from the fort prevented them from obtaining provisions so frequently as necessary. Capt. John Powell and Thomas Peart (the latter had by this time obtained his release from the Indians) and several others, came among the Indian settlements with provision and hoes for them.

The

The a
mongi
came,
as the
the nu
tion of
are sai
power
simple

It w
been p
not fec
of tim
great jo
were fo
corn sea
not bein
his capt

In th
to Butle
the wom
the rele
sented t
he must
deliver h
return, f
tion that
a spur to
light.

Some
proceede

which was
ply of pro-
employment

Indian who
recovered,
to obtain a
y drank to
ouched, was
with the
l at length
the family
alo Creek,
Erie. At
r Rebecca
tivity not
was their
undertook
they put

y, amused
lake, and
messies of
t bread or
nent from
ning pro-
apt. John
er had by
e Indians)
he Indian
for them.
The

The account of their coming soon spread amongst the Indians. The chiefs of every tribe came, bringing with them as many little sticks as there were persons in their tribe, to express the number, in order to obtain a just proportion of the provision to be distributed. They are said to be unacquainted with any other power of explaining numbers, than by this simple hieroglyphic mode.

It was upwards of a year since Abner had been parted from his relations, and as he had not seen his brother Thomas Peart in that space of time, this unexpected meeting gave him great joy, but it was of short duration, as they were forced to leave him behind. During the corn season he was employed in tending it, and not being of an impatient disposition, he bore his captivity without repining.

In the seventh month, 1781, the family went to Butlersbury, when Col. Butler treated with the woman who was the head of this family for the release of Abner, which she at length consented to, on receiving some presents, but said he must first return with her, and she would deliver him up in twenty days. Upon their return, she gave Abner the agreeable information that he was to be given up. This added a spur to his industry, and made his labour light.

Some days before the time agreed on, they proceeded for Butlersbury, and went to John Secord's,

Secord's, where his sister Elizabeth Gilbert had been from the time mentioned in the former part of this narrative.

Abner was discharged by the Indians soon after his arrival at the English village, and John Secord permitted him to live in his family with his sister. With this family they continued two weeks, and as they were under the care of the English officers, they were permitted to draw clothing and provisions from the king's stores.

Afterwards Benjamin Peart and his brother Thomas, who were both released, came over for their brother and sister at John Secord's, and went with them to Capt. Powell's, in order to be nearer to the vessel they were to go in to Montreal.

The next of the family, who comes within notice, is Elizabeth Gilbert the sister. From the time of her being first introduced by the Indian into the family of John Secord, who was one in whom he placed great confidence. She was under the necessity of having new clothes, as those she had brought from home were much worn. Her situation in the family where she was placed was comfortable. After a few days residence with them, she discovered where the young child was, that had some time before been taken from its mother Elizabeth Peart, as before mentioned; and herself, together with John Secord's wife with whom she lived,

lived, order who h not th after C dollars for a l distress protect it soon

Eliz in Joh year, a benefac of the sidence Peart c

The she was ration f expecta althoug shewn h

John gara, to satisfacti had been leased : the fort a them all

Gilbert had
the former

Indians soon
village, and
his family
y continu-
under the
permitted
from the

his brother
came over
Secord's,
s, in order
to go in to

nes within
r. From
ed by the
ord, who
onfidence.
ving new
om home
he family
e. After
discovered
ome time
Elizabeth
erself, to-
whom she
lived,

lived, and Capt. Fry's wife went to see it, in order to purchase it from the Indian woman who had it under her care; but they could not then prevail with her, though some time after Capt. Fry's wife purchased it for thirteen dollars. Whilst among the Indians it had been for a long time indisposed, and in a lingering distressing situation; but under its present kind protectress, who treated the child as her own, it soon recruited.

Elizabeth Gilbert, jun. lived very agreeably in John Secord's family rather more than a year, and became so fondly attached to her benefactors, that she usually stiled the mistress of the house her mamma. During her residence here, her brother Abner and Thomas Peart came several times to visit her.

The afflicting loss of her father, to whom she was affectionately endeared, and the separation from her mother, whom she had no expectation of seeing again, was a severe trial, although moderated by the kind attentions shewn her by the family in which she lived.

John Secord having some business at Niagara, took Betsy with him, where she had the satisfaction of seeing six of her relations who had been captives, but were most of them released: this happy meeting made the trip to the fort a very agreeable one. She staid with them all night, and then returned.

Not long after this visit, Col. Butler and John Secord sent for the Indian, who claimed Elizabeth as his property, and when he arrived they made overtures to purchase her, but he declared he would not sell his own flesh and blood; for thus they stile those whom they have adopted. They then had recourse to presents, which, overcoming his scruples, they obtained her discharge; after which she remained two weeks at Butlersbury, and then went to her mother at Montreal.

Having given a brief relation of the happy release and meeting of such of the captives as had returned from among the Indians, excepting Thomas Peart, whose narrative is deferred, as he was exerting his endeavours for the benefit of his sister and cousin, who still remained behind.

It may not be improper to return to the mother, who with several of her children were at Montreal. The nurse-child which they had taken, as related in the former part of this account, dying, was a considerable loss to them, as they could not, even by their utmost industry, gain as much any other way.

In the fall of the year 1781, Col. Johnson, Capt. Powell, and some other officers, came to Montreal upon business, and were so kind in their remembrance of the family, as to inquire after them, and to make them some presents, congratulating the mother on the happy re-
leasement

deafeme
encour
agreeme
of her
was by
opinion
family,
to be ea
time aft
Elizab
in cloth
industrio
terable f
Jesse
as a coop
to their f
Elizab
pass her,
relations
tion of be
he south
had been
to gain in
and had
ng them
f the ca
power, aff
eed.
It gave
ind sym
riends, an

Butler and
o claimed
he arrived
er, but he
flesh and
hom they
ecourse to
ples, they
h she re-
and then

lease-ment of so many of her children. They encouraged her with the information of their agreement with the Indians, for the release-ment of her daughter Rebecca, expecting that she was by that time at Niagara; but in this opinion they were mistaken, as the Indian family, who adopted her, valued her too high to be easily prevailed with, and it was a long time after this before she was given up.

Elizabeth Gilbert and her daughters took in clothes to wash for their support, and being industrious and careful, it afforded them a tolerable subsistence.

Jesse Gilbert obtained employ in his trade as a cooper, which yielded a welcome addition to their stock.

Elizabeth Gilbert suffered no opportunity to pass her, of inquiring about her friends and relations in Pennsylvania, and had the satisfaction of being informed by one who came from the southward, that friends of Philadelphia had been very assiduous in their endeavours to gain information where their family was, and had sent to the different meetings, desiring them to inform themselves of the situation of the captivated family, and, if in their power, afford them such relief as they might need.

It gave her great pleasure to hear of this kind sympathizing remembrance of their friends, and it would have been essentially serviceable

serviceable to them, could they have reduced it to a certainty.

Deborah Jones, a daughter of Abraham Wing, a friend, sent for Elizabeth Gilbert, in order to attend her as a nurse; but her death, which was soon after, frustrated the prospect she had of an agreeable place, as this woman was better grounded in friends principles than most she had met with; which circumstance united them in the ties of a close friendship: and as Elizabeth Gilbert had received many civilities and favours from her, her death was doubly afflicting to their family.

A person who came from Crown-Point, informed her that Benjamin Gilbert, a son of the deceased by his first wife, had come thither, in order to be of what service he could to the family, and had desired him to make inquiry where they were, and in what situation, and send him the earliest information possible.

A second agreeable intelligence she received from Niagara, by a young woman who came from thence, who informed her that her daughter Rebecca was given up to the English by the Indians. This information must have been very pleasing, as their expectations of her release were but faint; the Indian, with whom she lived, considering her as her own child.

It was not long after this, that Thomas Peart, Rebecca Gilbert, and their cousin Benjamin

Benjamin
rest of
scenes
was n
expres
Refle
out a p
the va
the far
throug
the fie
stored
among
great a
but wi
the gre
Rebe
were se
nexions
dows, v
Niagar
whom
of the
where h
the rest
Upon t
family,
as is cu
higher
be plac
over the

re reduced

Abraham
Gilbert, in
her death,
the prospect
his woman
principles than
circumstance
friendship:
lived many
death was

Point, in-
a son of the
thither, in
ould to the
ake inquiry
uation, and
ossible.

he received
a who came
her daugh-
English by
must have
ectations of
ndian, with
as her own

at Thomas
their cousin
Benjamin

Benjamin Gilbert came to Montreal to the rest of the family. This meeting, after such scenes of sorrow as they had experienced, was more completely happy than can be expressed.

Reflection, if indulged, will steadily point out a protecting arm of power to have ruled the various storms which often threatened the family with destruction on their passage through the wilderness, under the controul of the fiercest enemies, and preserved and restored them to each other, although separated among different tribes and nations: this, so great a favour, cannot be considered by them, but with the warmest emotions of gratitude to the great Author.

Rebecca Gilbert and Benjamin Gilbert, jun. were separated from their friends and connexions at a place called the Five Mile Meadows, which was said to be that distance from Niagara. The Seneca king's daughter, to whom they were allotted in the distribution of the captives, took them to a small hut where her father Siangorocti, his queen, and the rest of the family were, eleven in number. Upon the reception of the prisoners into the family, there was much sorrow and weeping, as is customary upon such occasions, and the higher in favour the adopted prisoners are to be placed, the greater lamentation is made over them.

After three days the family removed to a place called the Landing, on the banks of Niagara River : here they continued two days more, and then two of the women went with the captives to Niagara, to procure clothing from the king's stores for them, and permitted them to ride on horseback to Fort Slusher, which is about eighteen miles distant from Niagara fort. On this journey they had a sight of the Great Falls of Niagara.

During a stay of six days at Fort Slusher, the British officers and others used their utmost endeavours to purchase them of the Indians ; but the Indian king said he would not part with them for one thousand dollars.

The Indians, who claimed Elizabeth Peart, came to the fort with her at this time, and although she was very weakly and indisposed, it was an agreeable opportunity to them both of conversing with each other ; but they were not allowed to be frequently together, lest they should increase each other's discontent.

Rebecca being dressed in the Indian manner, appeared very different from what she had been accustomed to : short clothes, leggings, and a gold laced hat.

From Niagara fort they went about eighteen miles above the Falls to fort Erie, a garrison of the English, and then continued their journey about four miles further up Buffalo creek, and

and
met
adop
They
them,
was c
carele

Th
they t
crop o
thus e
their

Not
was of
the he
the ne
lower
tages o
rest.

one hu
ple is
five bu

As I
of equ
was fav
their h
she dre
method
sistance
baked
agreeab

and pitched their tent. At this place they met with Rebecca's father and mother by adoption, who had gone before on horse-back. They caught some fish, and made soup of them, but Rebecca could eat none of it, as it was dressed without salt, and with all the carelessness of Indians.

This spot was intended for their plantation, they therefore began to clear the land for the crop of Indian corn. While the women were thus employed, the men built a log house for their residence, and then went out hunting.

Notwithstanding the family they lived with was of the first rank among the Indians, and the head of it stiled King, they were under the necessity of labouring, as well as those of lower rank, although they often had advantages of procuring more provisions than the rest. This family raised this summer about one hundred skipple of Indian corn (a skipple is about three pecks) equal to seventy-five bushels.

As Rebecca was not able to pursue a course of equal labour with the other women, she was favoured by them by often being sent into their hut to prepare something to eat; and as she dressed their provisions after the English method, and had erected an oven by the assistance of the other women, in which they baked their bread, their family fared more agreeably than the others.

Benjamin Gilbert, jun. was considered as the king's successor, and entirely freed from restraint, so that he even began to be delighted with his manner of life; and had it not been for the frequent counsel of his fellow captive, he would not have been anxious for a change.

In the waters of the lakes there are various kinds of fish, which the Indians take sometimes with spears; but whenever they can obtain hooks and lines, they prefer them.

A fish called Ozoondah, resembling a shad in shape, but rather thicker, and less bony, with which Lake Erie abounded, was often dressed for their table, and was of an agreeable taste, weighing from three to four pounds.

They drew provisions this summer from the forts, which frequently induced the Indians to repair thither. The king, his daughter, grand-daughter, and Rebecca, went together upon one of these visits to Fort Erie, where the British officers entertained them with a rich feast, and so great a profusion of wine, that the Indian king was very drunk; and as he had to manage the canoe in their return, they were repeatedly in danger of being over-set amongst the rocks in the lake.

Rebecca and Benjamin met with much better fare than the other captives, as the family they lived with were but seldom in great want of

of need
they e
Ben
nity,
neck.

The
ly, to
Benja
Fort
procee
their b
to obta
frequen

Rebe
expecta
least pe
whites
was dis
turn ag
her rel
house-k
ness to
noticed,

As th
home w
intoxica
behaved

On th
at Fort
horie to
where th
stay of

of necessaries, which was the only advantage they enjoyed beyond the rest of their tribe.

Benjamin Gilbert, as a badge of his dignity, wore a silver medal pendant from his neck.

The king, queen, and another of the family, together with Rebecca and her cousin Benjamin, set off for Niagara, going as far as Fort Slusher by water, from whence they proceeded on foot, carrying their loads on their backs. Their business at the fort was to obtain provisions, which occasioned them frequently to visit it, as before related.

Rebecca indulged herself with the pleasing expectation of obtaining her release, or at least permission to remain behind among the whites; but in both these expectations she was disagreeably disappointed, having to return again with her captors; all efforts for her release being in vain. Col. Johnson's house-keeper, whose repeated acts of kindness to this captivated family have been noticed, made her some acceptable presents.

As they had procured some rum to carry home with them, the chief was frequently intoxicated, and always in such unhappy fits behaved remarkably foolish.

On their return, Thomas Peart, who was at Fort Niagara, procured for Rebecca an horse to carry her as far as Fort Slusher, where they took boat, and got home after a stay of nine days.

Soon after their return, Rebecca and her cousin were seized with the chill and fever, which held them for near three months. During their indisposition the Indians were very kind to them; and as their strength of constitution alone could not check the progress of the disorder, the Indians procured some herbs, with which the patients were unacquainted, and made a plentiful decoction; with these they washed them, and it seemed to afford them some relief: the Indians accounted it a sovereign remedy.

The decease of her father, of which Rebecca received an account, continued her in a drooping way a considerable time longer than she would otherwise have been.

As soon as she recovered her health, some of the family again went to Niagara, and Rebecca was permitted to be of the company. They staid at the fort about two weeks, and Col. Johnson exerted himself in order to obtain her release, holding a treaty with the Indians for this purpose; but his mediation proved fruitless: she had therefore to return with many an heavy step. When they came to Lake Erie, where their canoe was, they proceeded by water. While in their boat a number of Indians in a canoe came towards them, and informed them of the death of her Indian father, who had made an expedition to the frontiers of Pennsylvania, and was there wounded by the militia, and afterwards died

of his
under
row,

Wh
was th
potato
of hick

Ab
British
with th
for the
unatt

Som
attende
and hoe
happin
convers

Rebe
pleasure
came w
to settle
seen eac
proved

Thom
sister, b
speedily
were oft

An off
Latterid
them, an
prisoners
taining th

of

a and her
and fever,
months.

ians were
strength of
the pro-
procured
ents were
ful decoc-
m, and it
he Indians

which Re-
ed her in
ne longer

lth, some
and Re-
company.

eks, and
er to ob-
th the In-
ion prov-
turn with

came to
they pro-
at a num-

ards them,
er Indian
n to the
as there
ards died
of

of his wounds; on which occasion she was under the necessity of making a feint of sorrow, and weeping aloud with the rest.

When they arrived at their settlement, it was the time of gathering their crop of corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and preserving their store of hickory nuts.

About the beginning of the winter some British officers came amongst them, and staid with them until spring, using every endeavour for the discharge of the two captives, but still unattended with success.

Some time after this, another British officer, attended by Thomas Peart, came with provision and hoes for the Indians. It afforded them great happiness to enjoy the satisfaction of each other's conversation, after so long an absence.

Rebecca and her cousin had the additional pleasure of seeing her brother Abner, who came with the family amongst whom he lived, to settle near this place; and as they had not seen each other for almost twelve months, it proved very agreeable.

Thomas Peart endeavoured to animate his sister, by encouraging her with the hopes of speedily obtaining her liberty: but her hopes were often disappointed.

An officer amongst the British, one Capt. Latteridge, came and staid some time with them, and interested himself on behalf of the prisoners, and appeared in a fair way of obtaining their enlargement; but being ordered

to join his regiment, he was prevented from further attention until his return from duty; and afterwards was commanded by Col. Johnson to go with him to Montreal on business of importance, which effectually barred his undertaking any thing further that winter.

It afforded her many pleasing reflections when she heard that six of her relations were freed from their difficulties, and Thomas Peart visiting her again, contributed, in some measure, to re-animate her with fresh hopes of obtaining her own freedom. They fixed upon a scheme of carrying her off privately; but when they gave time for a full reflection, it was evidently attended with too great danger, as it would undoubtedly have much enraged the Indians, and perhaps the lives of every one concerned would have been forfeited by such indiscretion.

During the course of this winter she suffered many hardships and severe disappointments, and being without a friend to unbosom her sorrows to, they appeared to increase by concealment; but making a virtue of necessity, she summoned up a firmness of resolution, and was supported under her discouragement beyond her own expectations.

The youth and inexperience of her cousin did not allow of a sufficient confidence in him, but she had often to interest herself in an attention to, and oversight of, his conduct; and

and
that
his f
Co
India
ber o
occat
Niag
the tr
der o
issued
that t
Coun
rende
Wh
that C
was th
being
offer a
Aft
fix mil
two m
maple
able q
As f
over,
where
Indian
ing num
cured a
were fil

ented from
om duty ;
Col. John-
n business
barred his
winter.

reflections
tions were
mas Peart
ome mea-
hopes of
ixed upon
tely ; but
ection, it
at danger,
enraged
of every
seited by

e suffered
intments,
osom her
e by con-
necessity,
tion, and
ment be-

er cousin
e in him,
n an at-
conduct ;
and

and it was in some measure owing to this care, that he retained his desires to return amongst his friends.

Col. Butler sent a string of wampum to the Indian chief, who immediately called a number of the other Indians together upon this occasion, when they concluded to go down to Niagara, where they understood the design of the treaty was for the freedom of the remainder of the prisoners ; for especial orders were issued by General Haldimand, at Quebec, that their liberty should be obtained. At this Council-Fire it was agreed they would surrender up the prisoners.

When they returned, they informed Rebecca that Col. Butler had a desire to see her, which was the only information she could gain : this being a frequent custom amongst them to offer a very slight surmise of their intentions.

After this the whole family moved about six miles up Lake Erie, where they staid about two months to gather their annual store of maple sugar, of which they made a considerable quantity.

As soon as the season of this business was over, they returned to their old settlement, where they had not continued long, before an Indian came with an account that an astonishing number of young pigeons might be procured at a certain place, by falling trees that were filled with nests of young, and the distance

tance was computed to be about fifty miles: this information delighted the several tribes; they speedily joined together, young and old, from different parts, and with great assiduity pursued their expedition, and took abundance of the young ones, which they dried in the sun, and with smoke, and filled several bags which they had taken with them for this purpose. Benjamin Gilbert was permitted to accompany them in this excursion, which must have been a curious one for whole tribes to be engaged in. On this rarity they lived with extravagance for some time, faring sumptuously every day.

As the time approached, when, according to appointment, they were to return to Niagara, and deliver up the prisoners, they gave Rebecca the agreeable information, in order to allow her some time to make preparation. She made them bread for their journey with great cheerfulness.

The Indians, to the number of thirty, attended on this occasion with the two captives. They went as far as Fort Slusher in a bark canoe. It was several days before they reached Niagara Fort, as they went slowly on foot. After attending at Col. Butler's, and conferring upon this occasion, in consideration of some valuable presents made them, they released the two last of the captives, Rebecca Gilbert, and Benjamin Gilbert, jun.

As

As
dian c
ary a
on the
days a
treal.

Th
Peart,
be giv

He
the pr
Sarah,

The
load o
feized
the rel
togeth

The
disagre
throug
and Be
very h
for wa

The
Cayug
usual.
and th
gather
for sust
the sid
to a st
difficul

As speedily as they were enabled, their Indian dress was exchanged for the more customary and agreeable one of the Europeans; and on the third of the sixth month, 1782, two days after their happy release, sailed for Montreal.

The narrative of the treatment of Thomas Peart, another of the family, still remains to be given:

He was taken along the westward path with the prisoners before mentioned, viz. Joseph, Sarah, and Benjamin Gilbert, jun.

Thomas was compelled to carry a heavy load of the plunder which the Indians had seized at their farm. When separated from the rest, they were assured they should meet together again in four days.

The first day's travel was in an exceeding disagreeable path, across several deep brooks, through which Thomas had to carry Sarah and Benjamin Gilbert, jun. This task was a very hard one, as he had been much reduced for want of sufficient nourishment.

The first night they lodged by the banks of Cayuga Creek, the captives being tied as usual. The next morning they took a venison, and this, with some decayed corn which they gathered from the deserted fields, served them for sustenance. This day's journey was by the side of Cayuga Creek, until they came to a steep hill, which they ascended with difficulty.

When

When night came on, they sought a wigwam which had been deserted precipitately upon General Sullivan's march against the inhabitants of these parts.

The land in this neighbourhood is excellent for cultivation, affording very good pasture.

Thomas Peart assured the Indians, that he, with the other captives, would not leave them, and therefore requested the favour to be freed from their confinement at night; but one of them checked his request, by saying he could not sleep if the captives were suffered to be untied.

Their meat being all exhausted, Thomas and three Indians went near three miles to gather more decayed corn; and this, mouldy as it was, they were obliged to eat, it being their only food, excepting a few winter turnips which they met with. They went forwards a considerable distance by the side of Cayuga Creek, and then with much difficulty crossed it; immediately afterwards they ascended an uncommon miry hill, covered with springs. Going over this mountain they missed the path, and were obliged to wade very heavily through the water and mire.

In the close of the day they came to a fine meadow, where they agreed to continue that night, having no other provisions than the
mouldy

mouldy
with
been
Gener

Nex
leisure
by the
frequ

Wh
large
had be
ing co
nights,
game l
poor,
that th
the oth
they fir

Afte
a short
and the
themsel
the tree
a split
small b
that the
the poin
the gro
would b
they lef

mouldy Indian corn they accidentally met with in the Indian plantations, which had been cut down, and left on the ground by General Sullivan's army.

Next morning they set forwards, walking leisurely on, so that the company who went by the other path might overtake them, and frequently stopped for them.

When night approached, they came to a large creek where some Indians were, who had begun to prepare the ground for planting corn. At this place they staid two nights, and being too indolent to procure game by hunting, their diet was still very poor, and their strength much exhausted, so that they became impatient of waiting for the others, which was their intention when they first stopped.

After travelling till near noon, they made a short stay, stripped the bark off a tree, and then painted, in their Indian manner, themselves and the prisoners on the body of the tree; this done, they set up a stick with a split at the top, in which they placed a small bush of leaves, and leaned the stick so that the shadow of the leaves should fall to the point of the stick where it was fixed in the ground; by which means the others would be directed in the time of day when they left the place.

Here

Here they separated the prisoners again, those to whom Thomas Peart and Joseph Gilbert were allotted went westward out of the path, but Sarah Gilbert and Benjamin Gilbert, jun. with one Indian, continued in the path. This was very distressing to Sarah to be torn from her relations, and deprived of all the comforts, and even necessities of life. These two, with the Indian who had the care of them, after they had parted with the other two, and travelled forward a few miles, came to some Indians by the side of a creek, who gave them something to eat. The next day the Indian, who was their pilot, exerted himself to obtain some provisions, but his endeavours proved fruitless; they therefore suffered greatly. At night the Indian asked Sarah if she had ever eaten horse-flesh, or dogs; she replied, she had not; he then further surprised her by asking whether she had ever eat man's flesh; upon her expressing her abhorrence, he replied that he should be under the necessity of killing the boy, for he could not procure any deer. This threat, although perhaps not intended to be executed, terrified her exceedingly. He hunted with great diligence, leaving the natives by themselves, and appeared to sadder himself at what he had threatened, willing to try every resource; but notwithstanding his exertions, her fears prevailed in

a very

a very
slowly
their
they v
were v
tion,
at Car
mains
ter we
whom

As t
Gilber
going
mas Pe

To r
from th
mounta

In th
their co
hair, e
crown
in the I
appear
their ha
headed
lent hea
provisio

Whe
ments,
whoopin
soners,
to the n

a very great degree. They went forward slowly, being very weak, and in addition to their distress, there fell a very heavy rain, and they were obliged to continue in it, as they were without shelter. In this reduced situation, they at length came to one of the huts at Canodosago, where they dressed the remains of their mouldy corn, and the day after were joined by the part of the company whom they had left ten days before.

As the few days solitary sufferings of Sarah Gilbert had been before unrelated, the foregoing digression, from the narrative of Thomas Peart's, may not be thought improper.

To return to the two who were separated from the path, and had to go forwards across mountains and vallies, swamps and creeks.

In the morning they eat the remainder of their corn. The Indians then cut off their hair, excepting a small round tuft on the crown of the head; and, after painting them in the Indian manner, in order to make them appear more terrible, they took from them their hats. Being thus obliged to travel bareheaded in the sun, they were seized with violent head aches; and this, added to a want of provisions, was truly distressing.

When they approached the Indian settlements, the Indians began their customary whooping, to announce their arrival with prisoners, issuing their dismal yells according to the number brought in.

After

After some short time an Indian came to them: with him they held a discourse concerning the prisoners, and painted them afresh, part black, and part red, as a distinguishing mark. When this ceremony was concluded, the Indian who met them returned, and the others continued their route.

As they were not far from the Indian towns, they soon saw great numbers of the Indians collecting together, though the prisoners were ignorant of the motives.

When they came up to this disagreeable company, the Indian, who first met them, took the string that was about Thomas Peart's neck, with which he had been tied at night, and held him whilst a Squaw stripped off his vest.

Joseph Gilbert was ordered to run first, but being lame and indisposed, could only walk. The clubs and tomahawks flew so thick, that he was sorely bruised, and one of the tomahawks struck him on the head, and brought him to the ground, when a lad of about fifteen years old run after him, and, as he lay, would undoubtedly have ended him, as he had lifted the tomahawk for that purpose, but the king's son sent orders not to kill him.

After him, Thomas Peart was set off; he seeing the horrid situation of his brother, was so terrified, that he did not recollect the Indian still kept hold of the string which was
round

round
great
over,
feet,
lad wh
Joseph
his tom
certain
sprung
When
huts, t
there,
soon as
numbe
ful, an
among
the cap
other t
tion.

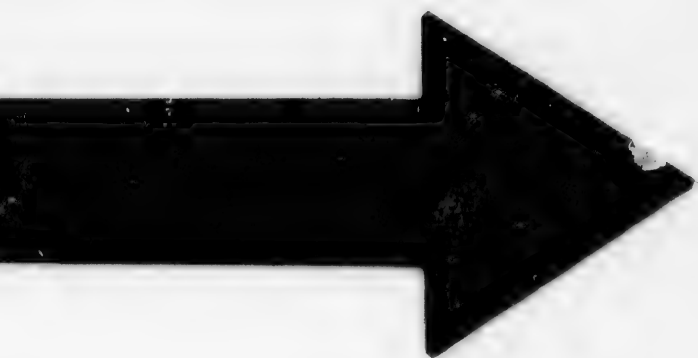
Their
ed, and
bert's w
tacle to
After
asked T
replied,
" eat b
cured fo
but Jose
his appe

round his neck; but, springing forwards with great force and swiftness, he pulled the Indian over, who, in return, when he recovered his feet, beat him severely with a club. The lad who was standing with a tomahawk near Joseph Gilbert, as he passed by him, threw his tomahawk with great dexterity, and would certainly have struck him, if he had not sprung forwards, and avoided the weapon. When he had got opposite to one of their huts, they pointed for him to take shelter there, where Joseph Gilbert came to him as soon as he recovered. In the room were a number of women, who appeared very sorrowful, and wept aloud; this, though customary amongst them, still added to the terror of the captives, as they imagined it to be no other than a prelude to inevitable destruction.

Their hair cropt close, their bodies bruised, and the blood gushing from Joseph Gilbert's wound, rendered them a horrid spectacle to each other.

After the lamentations ceased, one of them asked Thomas Peart, if he was hungry; he replied, he was: they then told him, "You eat by and by." They immediately procured some victuals, and set it before them, but Joseph Gilbert's wounds had taken away his appetite.





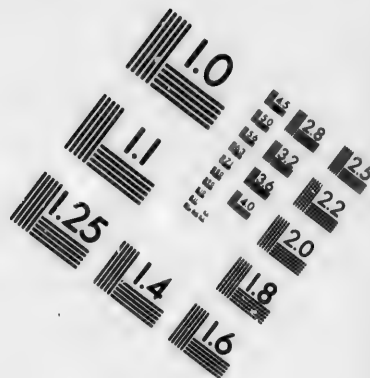
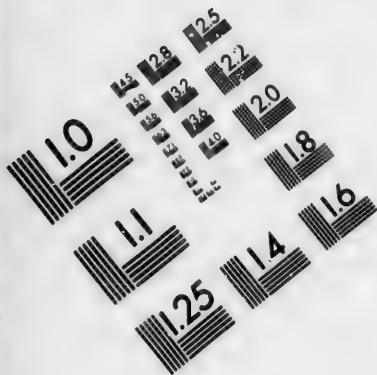
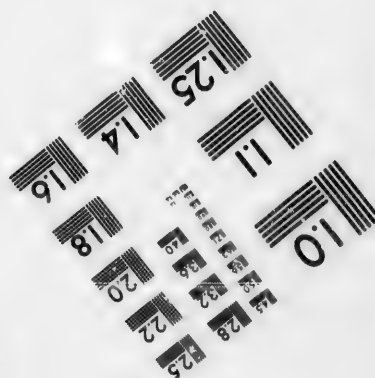
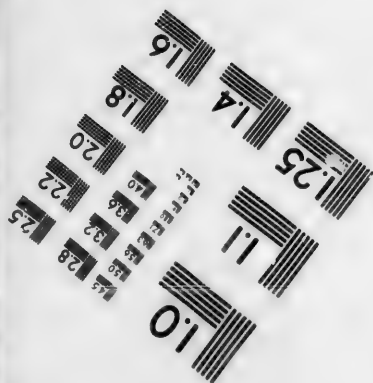
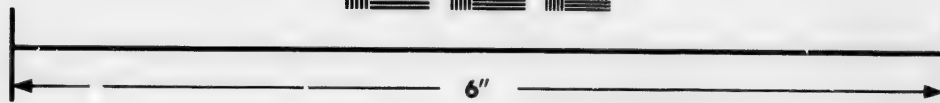
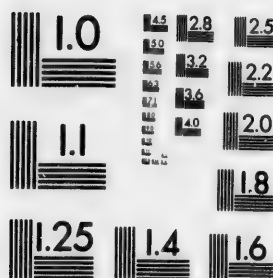


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



Photographic Sciences Corporation

**23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503**

1.8 2.0 2.2 2.5 2.8 3.2 3.6 4.0 4.5 5.0 5.6 6.3 7.1 8.0 9.0 10.0 11.2 12.5 14.0 16.0 18.0 20.0 22.5 25.0 28.0 31.5 36.0 40.0 45.0 50.0 56.0 63.0 71.0 80.0 90.0 100.0

0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0 1.2 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.6 4.0 4.5 5.0 5.6 6.3 7.1 8.0 9.0 10.0 11.2 12.5 14.0 16.0 18.0 20.0 22.5 25.0 28.0 31.5 36.0 40.0 45.0 50.0 56.0 63.0 71.0 80.0 90.0 100.0

An officer, who was of the French families of Canada, came to them, and brought a negro with him to interpret. After questioning them, he concluded to write to Col. Johnson, at Niagara, relative to the prisoners.

The Indians advised them to be contented with their present situation, and marry amongst them, giving every assurance that they should be treated with the utmost respect: but these conditions were inadmissible.

After this, Joseph Gilbert was taken from his brother, as related in the narrative of his sufferings.

Thomas Peart continued at the village that night, and the next day was given to the care of a young Indian, who went with him about two miles, where several Indians were collected, dressed in horrid masks, in order, as he supposed, to make sport of his fears, if he discovered any: he therefore guarded against being surprised, and when they observed him not to be intimidated, they permitted him to return again. Not long after his arriving at the village, Capt. Rowland Monteur came in, who gave Thomas Peart some account how the others of his family had suffered, and told him that he had almost killed his mother and Jesse, on account of Andrew Harrigar's making his escape. He had come in before the others,

in

in order
company

When
accompa
Captain
tented, a
so he st
Thomas
that if he
Niagara.

They e
ral days,
string fro
fully secu

The pl
fix for a
their crop
the Genes
removing
went thith
was exped
ed it in ab
to their ob

Thomas
the chief
his apprel
meet with

The In
dirty and
selves disre
ly mortifyi

in order to procure some provisions for the company, who were in great need of it.

When the Captain returned, Thomas Peart accompanied him part of the way, and the Captain advised him to be cheerful and contented, and work faithful for the friend, for so he stiled the Indian under whose care Thomas Peart was placed, promising him that if he complied, he should shortly go to Niagara.

They employed him in chopping for several days, having previous to this taken the string from his neck, which they had carefully secured him with every night.

The plantation on which they intended to fix for a summer residence, and to plant their crop of corn, was several miles down the Genesee, or Little River. Prior to their removing with the family, some of the men went thither, and built a bark hut, which was expeditiously performed, as they executed it in about two days, when they returned to their old habitation.

Thomas Peart was the next day given to the chief Indian, who endeavoured to quiet his apprehensions, assuring him he should meet with kind treatment.

The Indian manner of life is remarkably dirty and lousy; and although they themselves disregard their filth, yet it was extremely mortifying to the prisoners to be deprived of

of the advantages of cleanliness: and this was by no means among the number of smaller difficulties.

As Thomas Peart had been accustomed to industry, and when first among the Indians was constantly exerting himself, either in their active diversions or useful labour, they were much delighted with him. When they had concluded upon sending him to the family he was to reside with, they daubed him afresh with their red paint. He was then taken about seven miles, where he was adopted into the family, and stiled "Och-nusa," or uncle. When the ceremony of adoption was performed, a number of the relatives were summoned together, and the head of them took Thomas Peart into the midst of the assembly, and made a long harangue in the Indian language. After this he was taken into the house, where the women wept aloud for joy, that the place of a deceased relation was again supplied.

The old man, whose place Thomas Peart was to fill, had never been considered by his family as possessed of any merit; and, strange as it may appear, the person adopted always holds, in their estimation, the merits or demerits of the deceased, and the most careful conduct can never overcome this prejudice.

As soon as the ceremony of adoption at this place was finished, he was taken by the family

famil
River
or ki
was fu
a seco
Tho
a seaso
dried
which
food:
the ga
Tho
Indian
one
ner, as
after hi
Grea
the wo
situatio
relation
vity.
He c
five wee
sumed;
supply v
to go th
that Th
he was f
and the
preparat

family to Nundow, a town on the Genesee River. The head of this family was a chief or king of the Senecas. But before Thomas was fully received into the family, there was a second lamentation.

Their provisions, notwithstanding it was a season of great plenty, was often deers guts, dried with the dung, and all boiled together, which they consider strong and wholesome food. They never throw away any part of the game they take.

Thomas Peart's dress was entirely in the Indian stile, painted and ornamented like one of themselves, though in a meaner manner, as they did not hold him high in esteem after his adoption.

Greatly discontented, he often retired into the woods, and reflected upon his unhappy situation, without hopes of returning to his relations, or ever being rescued from captivity.

He continued in this solitary seclusion about five weeks, when their corn was mostly consumed; and as their dependence for a fresh supply was on Niagara Fort, they concluded to go thither, but at first would not consent that Thomas should accompany them; but he was so urgent, they at length consented, and the next day they had an Indian dance, preparatory to their expedition.

In the route Thomas Peart got a deer, which was an acceptable acquisition, as they had been for some days without any meat, and their corn was likewise expended.

When they came within two miles of the fort, they halted, and staid there until morning.

A white prisoner, who came from the fort, gave Thomas Peart a particular relation of his fellow captives: this was the first account he had of them since their separation at the Indian towns. As soon as he came to the fort, he applied to some of the officers, requesting their exertions to procure Thomas's liberty, if possible; but he was disappointed, as nothing could be then done to serve him.

He eat some salt provisions, which, as he had tasted but little salt since his captivity, (although pleasing to his palate) affected his stomach, it being difficult for him to digest.

As he was to return with the Indians in about a week, it was very distressing, being much disgusted with the fare he met amongst them:

They returned by way of Fort Snusher, and then along Lake Erie, up Buffalo Creek, taking some fish as they went. They passed by the place where Elizabeth Peart and Rebecca Gilbert were, but he had not an opportunity of seeing them.

The
sisted of
Lake
long from
breadth
Lakes Su
North V
Detroit.
lies on i
ably into
most trav
of Long
it, which
more infe
particular
places.

The na
be more
count of
so that wh
frequently
to land, a
a shelter r

The wa
east comm
which, by
six miles,

At the
Ontario, c
gara; and
lies Erie I

The

a deer,
as they
meat,

of the
morn-

he fort,
tion of
account
at the
to the
ers, re-
thomas's
ointed,
ve him.

, as he
ptivity,
ted his
digest.
dians in
, being
amongst

ner, and
ek, tak-
assed by
Rebecca
portunity

The

The stores they took home with them, consisted of rum, salt, and ammunition.

Lake Erie is about three hundred miles long from east to west, and about forty in breadth : it receives its supply of waters from Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron, by a North West passage, called the Straights of Detroit. A very long narrow piece of land lies on its north side, which projects remarkably into the lake, and has been noticed by most travellers, and is known by the name of Long Point. There are several islands in it, which, with the banks of the lake, were more infested with different kinds of snakes, particularly the rattle-snake, than other places.

The navigation of this lake is allowed to be more dangerous than the others, on account of the high lands projecting into it; so that when sudden storms arise, boats are frequently lost, as there are but few places to land, and seldom a possibility of finding a shelter near the craggy precipices.

The waters of Erie pass through a north-east communication into the river Niagara, which, by a northerly course of near thirty-six miles, falls into Lake Ontario.

At the discharge of this river into Lake Ontario, on the east side, stands Fort Niagara; and at the entrance from Lake Erie lies Erie Fort; between these two forts are

those extraordinary falls which claim the attention of the curious, and are amongst the most remarkable works of nature.

This stupendous cataract is supplied by the waters of the several lakes, and their distant springs; which, after traversing many hundred miles, rush astonishingly down a most horrid precipice, and which, by a small island, is separated into two large columns, and each near one hundred and forty feet perpendicular, and in a strong, rapid, inconceivable foam and roar, extends near nine miles further, having in this distance a descent nearly equal to the first.

The streight of Niagara is esteemed dangerous for a mile or upwards above the falls. The water of the falls raises a very heavy mist, somewhat resembling a continuation of the river; and this deception, together with the rapidity of the current, frequently hurries the ducks and geese down this dreadful precipice.

This vast body of water, after passing through the Streight of Niagara, is received by Lake Ontario, or Cataraqui, which is nearly of an oval form. Its greatest length is from north-east to south-west, and is generally allowed to be six hundred miles in circumference. And although the least of the five great lakes of Canada is much the safest for shipping, as the channel is less obstructed

by

by rock
The four
batteaux
shelving
other is

Many
barred i
but the v

On the
which fall
little Sen
der them
after the
flow and

In ord
between
is a porta
Falls, to
hills, alon
or nine m
as it poss
is about c
swift here
stem it for
stiffest ga
pass along
rent is le
north-east
Cataraqui.

From th
lakes, we
prisoner, a

by rocks or islands, than the other lakes. The south side is the most commodious for batteaux and canoes, having a moderately shelving bank and shore on that side: the other is more rocky.

Many of the rivers which fall into it, are barred in their entrances by broken hills, but the vallies are uncommonly fertile.

On the south the most considerable rivers which fall into this lake, are, the great and little Seneca. The falls of these rivers render them not navigable near the lake; but after the carrying-places are passed, they run slow and deep.

In order to keep up the communication between the different parts of Canada, there is a portage from the landing below Niagara Falls, to the landing above, up three sharp hills, along which, the road for about eight or nine miles has been made as easy for carts as it possibly could; (thence to Lake Erie is about eighteen miles) but the stream is so swift here, that it is almost impossible to stem it for a mile or two in a ship with the stiffest gale; though batteaux and canoes pass along without much danger, as the current is less rapid near the shore. On the north-east it empties itself into the river Cataraqui.

From this short digressive account of the lakes, we may return to the situation of the prisoner, and the Indian family.

When they had consumed their last year's stock of corn, they lived very low, and were reduced to great necessity, digging what wild esculent roots they could find; this was so different from what he had been accustomed to, that he could not bear it with that cheerfulness with which the Indians met such difficulties. His painful reflections, and the want of necessaries, reduced him exceeding low.

Whilst in this distress, he happily obtained the use of a testament from a white woman, who had been taken captive, and afterwards married amongst them. With this solacing companion, he frequently retired into the woods, and employed himself in reading and meditating upon the instruction couched in it.

The Indians directed a white girl to inform him, that they intended a hunt of twenty days, and were desirous he should attend them; to this he agreed, and the whole family accompanied the hunters. They passed by the town where Joseph Gilbert was, who informed his brother that he was going to Niagara: Thomas Peart replied he had already been there, and then informed him how the others of their relations were dispersed.

On their way up the Genesee River, where they intended to hunt, they took a deer.

The

The
beating
at length
him. V
fatigued
they were
situation

The m
as they v
quarters,

Thom
them, t
This, ac
them to
so weak
and was
the leave

Their
it was n
sumed;
were unc
ries.

The p
captive,
and to b
with the
though
to reach
tremity
which w
supply;

The fourth day, as Thomas Peart was beating for game, he lost his company; but at length came to some Indians, who directed him. When he came to the family much fatigued, and told them he had been lost, they were much delighted at the perplexing situation he had been in.

The next day they moved further, hunting as they went, and in the evening fixed their quarters, where they staid two nights.

Thomas Peart, not endeavouring to please them, they took umbrage at his neglect. This, added to a fit of the ague, induced them to leave him in the woods, he being so weak he could not keep up with them, and was obliged to follow by their tracks in the leaves.

Their provisions soon began to waste, and it was not long before it was entirely consumed; and as they took no game, they were under the necessity of eating wild cherries.

The prospect appeared very gloomy to our captive, to be thus distressed with hunger, and to be from home near one hundred miles with the whole family: but this situation, though so alarming to him, did not appear to reach their Stoic insensibility. In this extremity one of the Indians killed a fine elk, which was a long wished-for and delightful supply; but as the weather was very warm,

and they had no salt, it soon became putrid, and filled with maggots, which they, notwithstanding, eat without reserve.

After they had been out upwards of thirty days, the Indians changed their course towards their own habitation, making but little progress forwards, as they kept hunting as they went. And as Thomas had long been uneasy, and desirous to return, not expecting to have been absent more than twenty days, they gave him some directions, and a small share of provisions; he then left them, after an unsuccessful hunt of forty days: and, although weak and unfit for the journey, he set off in the morning, and kept as near a north west course as he could, going as fast as his strength would permit over large creeks, swamps, and rugged hills; and when night came on, made up a small fire, and being exceedingly fatigued, laid himself down on the ground, and slept very soundly. In the morning he continued his journey.

When he considered the great distance through the woods to the Indian towns, and the difficulty of procuring game to subsist on, it dejected him greatly. His spirits were so depressed, that when his fire was extinguished in the night, he even heard the wild beasts walking and howling around him, without regarding them, as with all his exertions and assiduity,

assiduity
reaching
succeed

On
roots a

What
were p
the rea
had le
fully in

This
new cr
pumpk
prospe
quent,

Abol
turned
had rea
that he
he ever

The
excursi
but he
therefo
not lo
brother
fifteen

Gene

Benj
indispo
him se

assiduity, he had but small hope of ever reaching the towns, but providentially he succeeded.

On the journey he eat a land tortoise, some roots and wild cherries.

When he reached the town, the Indians were pleased with his return, and inquired the reason of his coming alone, and where he had left the family he went with; which he fully informed them of.

This being the time for feasting on their new crop of corn, and they having plenty of pumpkins and squashes, gave an agreeable prospect of a short season of health, and frequent, though simple, feasts.

About ten days after this, the family returned; they soon inquired if Thomas Peart had reached home, and upon being informed that he had, replied that it was not expected he ever could.

The Indians concluding to make a war excursion, asked Thomas to be with them; but he determinately refused them, and was therefore left at home with the family; and not long after had permission to visit his brother Benjamin Peart, who was then about fifteen or eighteen miles distant, down the Genesee river.

Benjamin Peart was at that time very much indisposed: Thomas, therefore, staid with him several days, and, when he recovered a

little strength, left him, and returned to his old habitation.

He was thoroughly acquainted with the customs, manners, and dispositions of the Indians, and observing that they treated him just as they had done the old worthless Indian, in whose place he was adopted, he having been considered a perquisite of the Squaws; he therefore concluded he would only fill his predecessor's station, and used no endeavours to please them, as his business was to cut wood for the family; notwithstanding he might easily have procured a sufficient store, yet he was not so disposed, but often refused, and even left it for the Squaws sometimes to do themselves, not doubting, if he was diligent and careful, they would be less willing to give him his liberty.

Joseph Gilbert came to see him, and, as has been mentioned, informed him of the decease of their father.

Some time in the fall, the king (whose brother Thomas was called) died, and he was directed to hew boards, and make a coffin for him; when it was completed, they smeared it with red paint. The women, whose attention to this is always insisted on amongst the Indians, kept the corpse for several days, when they prepared a grave, and interred him; it being considered amongst this tribe disgraceful for a man to take any notice of this

this fo
of Squ
there v
tinued
the pla
pointed
Thoma
tunity
opening
fence.

Soon
was ca
to acco
Niagara
with th
deer and

They
about fi
very he
toilsome
before t
they can

When
days, th
store of
they ext
bread on

Frequ
hunting
when, c
extravag

this solemn and interesting scene. A number of Squaws collected upon this occasion, and there was great mourning, which they continued for several days at stated times. As the place of interment, as well as that appointed for weeping, was near the hut Thomas Peart resided at, he had an opportunity of indulging his curiosity, through the openings of the logs, without giving offence.

Soon after this, one of the women, who was called Thomas's sister, desired him to accompany her about fifty miles towards Niagara. Some others of the family went with them, and in their way they took a deer and other game.

They were from home on this journey about six days; during the time, there fell a very heavy snow, which made their journey toilsome. The women were sent homeward before the rest, to prepare something against they came.

When they had loitered at home a few days, they set about gathering their winter store of hickory nuts: from some of them they extracted an oil, which they eat with bread or meat, at their pleasure.

Frequently before they set off on their hunting parties, they make an Indian frolick; when, commonly, all the company become extravagantly intoxicated: and when they in-

tend to go off this winter, they first give the preparatory entertainment.

After they were gone, Thomas Peart and the mistress of the family disagreeing, she insisted upon his joining to the hunters, and living on the game, that she might save more corn. He pleaded the coldness of the season, and his want of clothing, but it would not avail; he was therefore turned out, and upon finding the hunters, he built them huts, where they staid for some weeks, taking the game, and eating wild meat without corn, as the supply they had raised was short.

When they were weary with their employ, they moved to their old hut, and lived in their idle manner for a long time. They then again returned to their hut, and staid about ten days, and took several deer.

A few days after their return from hunting, they acquainted Thomas that they should set off for Niagara; which was truly grateful to him. There were fifteen of them on this visit. The old woman gave Thomas Peart a strict charge to return.

Although the prospect of seeing or hearing from his relations was delightful, yet the journey was excessively painful; the snow covering the ground to a considerable depth, the cold increased, and they had to wade through several deep creeks, the water often freezing to their legs; and Thomas Peart, as

well

well
blank

In
at th
them

No
he in
tish
Power
quest
time
willin
length
telling
to par
they
them

Col
own h
and fe
he ha
necess
ing o
spirits
how to
for cha

Wh
Colon
the fat
compa
permi

well as the rest, were unclothed, excepting a blanket and pair of leggings.

In five days they came to Fort Slusher, and at the treats they there received, were most of them drunk for the day.

Next morning they went to Niagara, where he immediately made application to the British officers to solicit his release. Captain Powell informed Colonel Johnson, who requested it of the Indians; they required some time to deliberate upon the subject, not willing to disoblige the Colonel, and at length concluded to comply with his request; telling him, that however hard it might be to part with their own flesh, yet, to please him, they consented to it, hoping he would make them some present.

Colonel Johnson then directed him to his own house, and desired him to clean himself, and sent clothes for him to dress with. Here he had plenty of salt provisions, and every necessary of life: this, with the happy regaining of his liberty, gave a new spring to his spirits, and, for a few days, he scarcely knew how to enjoy sufficiently this almost unlooked-for change.

When recruited, he went to work for Colonel Johnson, and a few weeks after had the satisfaction of his brother Benjamin Peart's company; who, though not released, yet was permitted to stay at the fort, and worked with
his

his brother until spring; when Captain Powell, Lieutenant Johnson, and Thomas Peart went up Buffalo Creek, with two boats loaded with provisions, and a proportion of planting corn, together with hoes, to be distributed among the Indians.

In this expedition Thomas had the satisfaction of seeing and conversing with his sister Rebecca, which was the first of their meeting together, after a separation of a year.

At the distribution of the corn and hoes, the Indians met, and made a general feast; after which, they dispersed; and the officers, when they had completed their business, returned to Niagara, after an absence of eight or nine days.

Thomas Peart was settled at Colonel Johnson's, to work for him at two shillings and six pence per day, till the eighth month, when six of the captives were sent to Montreal, and Thomas also had permission to go, but he chose rather to stay, to afford his assistance to his sister Rebecca Gilbert, and his cousin Benjamin Gilbert, junior, who yet remained in captivity; exerting himself as strenuously as possible on their behalf.

In the fall, he went up again to Buffalo Creek, where he saw his sister and cousin a second time, and assured his sister that the Colonel intended to insist on her being released: this encouraged her to hope.

The

The
sufficient
winter;
fort, ge
English
back as
neighbor
supply,
to the fo

In the
chop wo
himself a
in which
dian cam
knife in
chief; b
Thomas
him.

A wolv
his cabb
ing, by t
nights at
fired at h
supposed.

Next sp
again up
mated his
ral Hald
officers to

As they
were in d

The Indians are too indolent to employ sufficient pains to preserve their grain in the winter; therefore, those who plant near the fort, generally send the greater part to the English to preserve for them, and take it back as they want it: therefore, what this neighbourhood had more than for a short supply, they carried with them in their boats to the fort.

In the winter, Thomas Peart undertook to chop wood for the British officers, and built himself a hut about two miles from the fort, in which he lodged at night. A drunken Indian came to his cabbin one evening with a knife in his hand, with an intention of mischief; but, being debilitated with liquor, Thomas Peart easily wrested his knife from him.

A wolf came one night up to the door of his cabbin, which he discovered next morning, by the tracks in the snow; and, a few nights after, paid a second visit, when he fired at him, and, by the blood on the snow, supposed he had mortally wounded him.

Next spring, Thomas went with the officers again up Buffalo Creek, when he afresh animated his sister, by informing her that General Haldimand had given orders to the officers to procure their liberty.

As they returned by Fort Erie, their boats were in danger from the ice in the lake and river.

well,
went
with
corn,
mong
atisf-
his
their
of a

noes,
east;
cers,
re-
eight

ohn-
and
when
real,
but
rance
ousin
ained
ously

ffalo
sin a
t the
g re-

The

river. It continues in these parts untill late in the spring; sometimes as late as the fifth month; and, as soon as melted, the vegetation is astonishingly quick.

About two weeks after they returned, Thomas Peart went back again with some officers, who were going to the Indians.

After a tour of fifteen days, he came again to the fort, where he staid for several weeks, and received several letters from his relations at Montreal, by some officers who were on their way to Cataraguors, on Lake Erie, about eighty miles from Niagara; who, in their way, saw Rebecca and Benjamin Gilbert, jun. with a number of Indians, going for Niagara. Thomas Peart made as quick dispatch as possible to meet them, delighted with the prospect of their obtaining their liberty.

They took a porcupine, which is somewhat larger than a rackoon, and covered remarkably with quills of bone, about eight or nine inches long, which they can discharge with such force, as to penetrate through a man's hand at a considerable distance.

A few days after he returned from this expedition, the captives were delivered up: these two had been with the Indians upwards of two years.

In a short time after their release, Thomas Peart procured permission for them and himself to proceed to Montreal, and was furnish-

ed

ed with
what
their p

The
they we
ceeded
against
terred,
Thoma
not lan
after b
reached
night,
their re
received
Gilbert
of his l
order to
and req
tained
immedi
with g
to Gene
dily gra
favour
rememb
arrival
he had
conversi
nexions
after an

ed with a pass, containing an order to obtain what provisions they might be in want of in their passage.

The second day of the sixth month, 1782, they went on board the ship *Limner*, and proceeded towards Montreal. When they came against the place where their father was interred, those whom they were with, gave Thomas and Rebecca notice, though they did not land, but pursued their voyage; and, after being seven days on the water, they reached Fort Lasheen, where they staid that night, and the next day went to Montreal to their relations: soon after which, a letter was received from the before-mentioned Benjamin Gilbert, then at Castleton, acquainting them of his being so far on his way to Montreal, in order to give them assistance in getting home, and requesting that permission might be obtained for his coming in; which Elizabeth immediately applied to the officers for: who, with great cheerfulness, wrote in her behalf to General Haldimand, at Quebec, who readily granted her request, together with other favours to Elizabeth, worthy of her grateful remembrance; by which means, Benjamin's arrival at Montreal was soon effected, where he had the pleasure once more of seeing and conversing with his relations and nearest connexions, to their great joy and satisfaction, after an absence of near three years; during which

which time, they had but little if any certain account of each other.

After some time spent in inquiring after their relatives and friends, and conversing on the once unthought of and strange scenes of life they had passed through since their separation, it became necessary to prepare for their journey homewards, which was accordingly done; and in about five weeks from the time of Benjamin's arrival, they took leave of the friends and acquaintances they had made during their residence there, whose hospitable and kind treatment merits their grateful and sincere acknowledgments, and most ardent desires for their welfare in every scene. And on the twenty-second day of the eighth month, 1782, attended by a great number of the inhabitants, they embarked in boats prepared for them, and took their departure. Having crossed the river, and carriages being provided, they proceeded on their journey without much delay, until they came to St. John's, where they went on board a sloop; but the winds being unfavourable, rendered their passage in the lake somewhat tedious.

They did not arrive at Crown-Point, until about two weeks after their departure from Montreal. They continued here several days, and from thence went in open boats to East-Bay in about two days, where they landed and staid all night, and were next day delivered

up

up to
the c
Benj
whic
ed o
befor
all n
the n
for a
about
to be
were
Benja
the re
some
treate
expen
The
their
where
next
him.
Con
John
Lanfor
Bay);
which
noon
nights,
Hav
ney, th
where

up to the officers of Vermont. Here some of the company staid two nights; on account of Benjamin Peart's child being very ill; by which time it so recovered, that they proceeded on to Castleton, where those that went before had halted, and near that place staid all night, and in the morning, Elizabeth, the mother, having engaged to do an errand for a friend, was under a necessity of riding about thirty-five miles, which occasioned her to be absent two nights from the family, who were at Captain Willard's; at which place Benjamin provided horses and waggons for the remainder of the journey, together with some provisions. Here they were very civilly treated; and generously entertained, free of expence.

The family then proceeded on, and met their mother at the house of Captain Lanfon, where they staid that night, and until noon next day, and were also kindly treated by him.

Continuing their journey, they met with John Bracanage (who, together with Captain Lanfon, were passengers with them to East-Bay); he gave them an invitation to his house, which they accepted, and arrived there about noon next day, and continued with him two nights, and were respectfully entertained.

Having prepared for prosecuting their journey, they proceeded on for the North-River, where they met with Lot Trip and William Knowles,

Knowles, who kindly conducted the women to the house of David Sands, where they lodged that night. The rest of the family came to them in the morning, and several of them attended friends meeting, not having had the like opportunity for several years before.

In the afternoon they pursued their journey, the before-mentioned Lot Trip and William Knowles accompanying them, and being in a waggon, kindly took Elizabeth and her younger daughter passengers with them, which proved a considerable relief.

In a few days they came into Pennsylvania, where they met with some of their relations, and former acquaintances and friends, who were unitedly rejoiced at the happy event of once more seeing and conversing with them.

The next day, being the twenty-eighth day of the ninth month, 1782, they arrived at Byberry, the place of their nativity, and the residence of their nearest connexions and friends, where Elizabeth and her children were once more favoured with the agreeable opportunity of seeing and conversing with her ancient mother, together with their other nearest relatives and friends, to their mutual joy and satisfaction; under which happy circumstance we now leave them.

THOUGHTS

Allu

th

BI

FA

A S

On the
Wile

Here un

Its v

In whic

Profe

Pompou

Floa

Nor dip

To b

Sophisti

The f

With ze

Still c

T H O U G H T S

Alluding to, and in Part occasioned by,
the CAPTIVITY and SUFFERINGS of
BENJAMIN GILBERT and his
FAMILY.

AS from the forest issues the fell boar,
So human ravagers, in deserts bred,
On the defenceless, peaceful hamlet pour
Wild waste o'er all, and sudden ruin spread!

Here undisguis'd, war's brutal spirit see,
Its venom'd nature to the root laid bare,
In which (trick'd up in webs of policy)
Professing Christians vindicate their share.

Pompous profession, vaunting in a name,
Floats lightly on an ostentatious show,
Nor dips sincere, in resignation's stream,
To bring memorials from the depths below.

Sophisticated dogmas of the schools,
The flatulent, unwholesome food of strife,
With zeal pedantic for tradition's rules,
Still crucify the principle of life.

The

The woes of this probationary state,
Through life so mingled and diversified,
Derive their chief malignity and weight,
From murmuring discontent and captious pride.

Transient is human life, all flesh as grass,
The goodliness of man but as a flow'r.
Fine gold must through the servid furnace pass ;
Through death we immortality explore.

Through judgment must deliverance be known,
From vile affections, and their wrathful sting ;
True peace pertains to righteousness alone,
That flows, through faith, from life's eternal spring !

Should man (to glory call'd, and endless bliss)
Bewail his momentary adverse doom ?
Or in deep thankful resignation kiss
The rod that prompts him on his journey home ?

Unsearchable the providence of God,
By boasted wisdom of the son of dust ;
Lo ! virtue feels oppression's iron rod,
And impious spirits triumph o'er the just.

Shall hence a self-conceited reptile dare
Th' omniscient Ruler's equity arraign ?
Say here thy wrath is fit, thy bounty there,
Good to promote, and evil to restrain.

Believing souls unfeignedly can say,
Not mine, but thy all-perfect will be done ;
If best this bitter cup should pass away,
Or be endur'd, to thee, not me, is known.

Deep

Deep
Th
The g
Pur

Afflict
Dee
The p
Bap

Thou
Not
Humb
In l

Yet sh
Nor
The g
Stor

Some f
Wit
Calm r
Of i

If disap
Indu
Conclu
To c

The ca
Trac
Throug
The

Deep tribulation in the humbly wise,
Through patience to divine experience leads;
The ground where hope securely edifies,
Purg'd of the filth whence conscious shame proceeds.

Affliction is Bethesda's cleansing pool,
Deep searching each distemper of the mind;
The poor way-farer, though esteem'd a fool,
Baptizing here, immortal health may find.

Though for the present grim adversity
Not joyous is, but grievous to sustain;
Humbling the Shepherd's call—"Come learn of me"
In lowly meekness to endure thy pain.

Yet shall it work a glorious recompence;
Nor can the heart of man conceive in full,
The good by infinite Beneficence,
Stor'd for the patient unrepining soul.

Some feeble ones sustain the galling yoke,
With firmness no ferocious tempers know;
Calm resignation mitigates the stroke
Of ills, tremendous to the distant view!

If disappointment blast thy sanguine hope,
Indulg'd in sublunary prospects fair,
Conclude thy guardian angel made thee stop,
To check thy blind, thy dangerous career.

The captive family in savage bonds,
Trace through each rugged way and trackless wild:
Through famine, toils unknown, and hostile wounds,
The tender mother with her infant child.

Then

Then with thy lighter griefs their sorrows weigh,
 Nor let thy own demerits be forgot :
 Impartial inference deduce, and say
 Whence thy exemption from their heavy lot :

Is it thy wisdom shields thee in the hour,
 When mighty dangers o'er thy head impend ?
 Can thine, or other mortal arm of power,
 From famine, pestilence, or storm defend ?

Confess 'tis mercy covers thee from harm,
 A care benign, unmerited by thee ;
 And if the grateful sense thy bosom warm,
 Small price is paid for such felicity.

If the hard Indian's wild ferocity,
 Against their race thy indignation move,
 Think on the example due to them from thee,
 Professing Christian equity and love.

So shall their cruel, their abhorred deeds,
 Instruction to the humble mind convey ;
 Remind us whence all violence proceeds,
 And strengthen to pursue the peaceful way.

Vengeance with vengeance holds perpetual war :
 Love only can o'er enmity prevail ;
 Sulphur and pitch, absurdly who prepare,
 To quench devouring fire, are sure to fail.

Hear ye vindictive ! be no longer proud,
 The high decree is past, gone forth the word ;
 No vain illusion——'tis the voice of God !
 " Who use the sword must perish by the sword. "

Perish

Perish from that divine ennobling sense
 Of heavenly good, which evil overcomes ;
 That light, whose energetic influence,
 With piercing ray dispels bewild'ring glooms.

From whence come mortal jarrings ! come they not
 From lust, from pride, from selfish arrogance ?
 In which, from peace and freedom far remote,
 The blind goad on the blind, a slavish dance.

What ! cries the zealot, shall not Christian faith
 O'er heathen infidelity prevail ?

—Yes——but the means is not thy will, thy wrath ;
 Means which confederate with death and hell.

Did ever tyger-hearted Spanish chief,
 By those dire massacres in story told,
 Vanquish Peruvia's stubborn unbelief,
 Or add one convert to the Christian fold ?

Vindictive man will still retaliate,
 Evil for evil, and still rack his brains,
 For arguments the cause to vindicate ;
 Nor knows what spirit in his bosom reigns.

Messiah is the love of God to man !
 Reveal'd on earth, not to destroy, but save ;
 By wisdom's peaceful influence to maintain,
 Dominion over death, hell, and the grave.

But why for Christian purity contend ?
 Who hath, alas ! believ'd the glad report ?
 How many boast the name, the name defend ;
 Yet make the virtual life their scoff and sport ?

Deal forth their censures with unsparing zeal,
 'Gainst savage violence and cruel wrong;
 Nor dream the real essential infidel
 Holds o'er their spirits his dominion strong.

What Turkish rover, or what heathen foe,
 Shews more contempt of gospel equity,
 Than those, to sultry climes remote who go,
 T' enslave their fellow men, by nature free?

The yelling warrior, with relentless hand,
 Leaves parent childless, fatherless the son;
 Their griefs our tender sympathy demand;
 But what have distant Afric's children done?

Will still the pick-thank, temporizing priest,
 Give this oppression Pharisaic aid?
 Will civiliz'd believers still persist
 To vindicate the abominable trade?

Th' extensive, deep, unrighteous t' unfold,
 West-India's dark, inhuman laws explore;
 What gross iniquity we there behold,
 In solemn acts of legislative pow'r?

Britons, who loud for liberty contend,
 Affect to guard their nation from the stain;
 Yet sordidly in Mammon's temple bend,
 And largely share in the ungodly gain.

What ardent execrations do we hear,
 'Gainst barb'rous Mohoc's, bloody Shawanese?
 From father's arms their hopeful sons who tear;
 From mother's breasts love's tender pledges seize.

O Christian! think with what redoubled force,
 'Gainst which fallacious artifice is vain,
 On thee recurs thy aggravated curse,
 Heav'n's righteous Judge pronouncing—"Thou
 art the man."

Think for what end the Mediator came,
 On earth an ignominious death to die;
 Thy soul from wrath's dominion to redeem,
 And to himself a people purify.

F I N I S.

O OKS Printed and Sold by JAMES PHILLIPS.

THE Select Works of WILLIAM PENN, in Five Volumes 8vo. Price 22s. 6d. well bound, or 25s. in Calf lettered.

The Works of ISAAC PENINGTON, in Four Volumes 8vo. well bound 20s. Calf lettered 22s.

An Apology for the True Christian Divinity, by ROBERT BARCLAY, 5s. On Superfine Writing Paper, large 8vo. 7s. 6d.

The Sacred History of the Old and New Testament, by THOMAS ELLWOOD, Three Volumes 8vo. well bound, 15s.

Fruits of a Father's Love, being the Advice of WILLIAM PENN to his Children, relating to his Civil and Religious Conduct, 9d. or 15d. bound.

An Account of the Gospel Labours and Christian Experiences of a faithful Minister in Christ, JOHN CHURCHMAN, late of Nottingham in Pennsylvania, deceased, 8vo. bound 4s.

A Journal of the Life, Travels, and Labours in the Work of the Ministry of JOHN GRIFFITH, 8vo. bound 2s. 6d.

Some Considerations relating to the present State of the Christian Religion, &c. by ALEXANDER ARSCOTT, 8vo. bound 3s.

Select Poems, &c. occasionally written on various Subjects. To which is added, the History of the Prophets Elijah and Elisha, a Poem, by JOHN FRY, bound 1s. 6d.

A Journal of the Life of JOHN GRATTON, 8vo. bound 2s.

Fruits of Solitude, in Reflections and Maxims relating to the Conduct of Human Life, in Two Parts, by WILLIAM PENN, bound 2s.

HILLIPS.

in Five
or 25s.

Volumes

ity, by
g Paper,

ament,
o. well

of WIL-
ivil and

Christian
JOHN
ylvania,

s in the
a, 8vo.

State of
SCOTT,

ous Sub-
Prophets
bound

N, 8vo.

kims re-
o Parts,

